Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-171
Tuesday
7 September 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-171 7 September 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Sources on Prospects for Signing Agreement *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 1
Palestinian Delegation Said Optimistic on Agreement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Sha'th on Significance of Israeli Recognition of PLO *[MENA]* 2
'Abd-al-Shafi: 'Not Too Late' To Reject Accord *[AL-DUSTUR 4 Sep]* 2
Israelis Deny Plan To Recognize Golan as Syrian *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
Rabinovich Says No Secret Syrian Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 3
Denies Breakthrough Imminent *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
Jordanian Negotiator Says Agenda 'Almost Finalized' *[Amman TV]* 5
King Husayn Said Ready To Sign *[Jerusalem TV]* 5

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Officials: Mutual Recognition Announcement Soon 5
Declaration Expected 'Within 24 Hours' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 5
Agreement Efforts Viewed *[Jerusalem International TV]* 5
Abu-Mazin on Agreement *[MENA]* 7
Recognition Scenario Outlined *[MENA]* 7
Fatah Central Committee Approves Gaza-Jericho Plan 8
Statement Issued on Approval *[MENA]* 8
Further on Committee Vote *[MENA]* 9
Qaddumi on Opposition to Plan *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 9
Jihad Denies Commiteee Approval *[Damascus Radio]* 9
Abd-Rabbuh Comments on Meeting *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 10
'Arafat Gives Statement *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 11
Al-Husayni Discusses Territories' Support for Plan *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 11
'Arafat Message to West Bank Seminar Reported *[Algiers VOP]* 12
Al-Hut Fears Gaza-Jericho Marks End of Process *[Beirut Radio]* 14
Urges 'Level-Headed' Opposition *[VOL]* 14
Warns Syria Could Foil Accord *[MENA]* 14
10 Factions Explain Gaza-Jericho Opposition *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 14
PFLP, DFLP Leaders Refuse To Meet With 'Arafat *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 16
PFLP's Habash on Establishing Front To Foil Agreement *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 16
Comments on Rejection of Plan *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 6 Sep]* 16
DFLP Leader Opposes 'Capitulationist' Agreement *[RFL]* 18
Hamas Leaders Say Agreement Not Binding to Opposition *[AL-RA'Y 5 Sep]* 18
Hamas Promises Not To Kill 'Arafat *[Amman TV]* 19
Islamic Jihad Leader Comments on 'Disastrous' Plan *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 19
Islamic Group Declares Jihad Against 'Betrayal' *[Tehran Radio]* 20
Iran Said To Offer Cash Reward for Killing 'Arafat *[Voice of the South]* 20
Israel's Dayan Gives Warning to 'Arafat *[Amman TV]* 20
'Arafat Receives Letter From Russia's Kozyrev *[Algiers VOP]* 20
PLO Spokesman: Note of Appreciation Sent to U.S. *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 20
Repatriation of Fatah Supporters Planned *[MENA]* 20
Israel To Permit Return of 6 PLO Deportees *[AFP]* 21
'Arafat Orders Black Panthers To Stop Attacks *[HADASHOT 6 Sep]* 21

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Higher State Council Approves New Cabinet *[Algiers TV]* 22
Prime Minister Discusses Aims of New Government *[Algiers Radio]* 22

Egypt

'Arafat Meets With Egyptian, Syrian Minsters 23
Stopover in Cairo Detailed *[MENA]* 23
'Arafat on 'Historic Challenge' *[MENA]* 23
Musa Comments on Meeting With 'Arafat *[MENA]* 24
'Arafat Hails Talks With Syrian Leader *[MENA]* 24
Musa on Accord, Mutual Recognition *[MENA]* 24
'Arafat, Musa Hold Second Meeting *[MENA]* 25
Musa on 'Arafat's Syria Visit *[MENA]* 25
'Arafat on Mutual Recognition *[MENA]* 25
Mubarak, 'Arafat Hold Talks *[MENA]* 25
'Arafat: Mubarak Efforts 'Instrumental' *[MENA]* 26
'Arafat Departs Cairo 7 Sep *[MENA]* 26
Mubarak on Gaza-Jericho, Election, al-Asad Visit *[MENA]* 26
Russian Foreign Minister Conveys Support for Plan *[MENA]* 26
Iran's View of Plan, Cooperation With Israel Criticized *[MENA]* 27
Fundamentalist Inmates Riot; 48 Policemen Injured *[AFP]* 27
Security Forces Regain Control *[MENA]* 27

Sudan

Diplomat Denies Role in World Trade Center Blast *[SUNA]* 27
Abu-Salih To Deliver Message on Terrorism Listing *[MENA]* 28
Helicopter Crash Kills Governor, Military Officials *[Omdurman Radio]* 28

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Ministerial Council Concludes 48th Session 29
UAE Foreign Minister Gives Address *[SPA]* 29
Council Welcomes PLO-Israel Accord *[SPA]* 29
Council Issues Statement *[Riyadh TV]* 29

Kuwait

Al-Hariri, 'Abd-al-Majid Arrive 6 Sep *[Kuwait TV]* 30
Trial of Kuwaiti, 11 Iraqis To Resume 11 Sep *[AFP]* 31
Algiers Radio Reports Executions 31
Prime Minister Addresses National Assembly on Tasks *[Kuwait Radio]* 31

Saudi Arabia

King Receives Visiting French Defense Minister *[SPA]* 31

United Arab Emirates

Lebanon's al-Hariri, Arab League Chief Pay Visit 31
Shaykh Zayid Pledges Aid for Lebanon *[Beirut Radio]* 31
Al-Hariri on PLO-Israeli Agreement *[WAKH]* 32
'Secret Contacts' With Israel Denied *[WAKH]* 32
Al-Hariri, 'Abd-al-Majid Depart *[WAKH]* 33
President, UK's Hurd Discuss Mideast Peace *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 33

Yemen

Bomb Goes Off in Prime Minister's Residence 4 Sep *[INA]* 33

IRAQ

Saddam Appoints New Cabinet, Advisers, Baghdad Mayor 34
New Cabinet Appointed *[Baghdad Radio]* 34
Presidential Advisers Appointed *[Baghdad Radio]* 34
New Baghdad Mayor Appointed *[Baghdad Radio]* 34
Saddam Lauds Efforts of Ministers *[Baghdad Radio]* 35
Cabinet Transfer Ceremonies Detailed *[Baghdad Radio]* 35
Saddam Addresses New Cabinet *[Baghdad Radio]* 36
INA Profiles New Cabinet Ministers 36
Defecting Ambassadors Comment on Motives, Goals *[London TV]* 37
Brother of Ambassador Cables Saddam *[Baghdad Radio]* 42
Coup Attempt by Tikriti Clan Said Foiled in July *[AFP]* 42

Gaza-Jericho Accord Raises 'Major Questions' *[AL-THAWRAH 1 Sep]* 42

ISRAEL

Foreign Ministry Denies Secret Contacts With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
Opposition Continues Campaign Against Gaza-Jericho Plan 44
Sharon Urges Likud To Renounce Pacts *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 44
Netanyahu: Likud To Stop Plan by Legal Means *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 45
Rabin Voices Concern About Opposition Statements *[HA'ARETZ 6 Sep]* 45
Calls Likud Remarks 'Hypocrisy' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
Rabin: Knesset To Vote on Agreement After Signing *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Ministers Comment After Cabinet Session on Peace Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Beilin on Conditions for Recognition of PLO *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 47
Welcomes King Husayn's Statement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Proposes Palestinian Borough in East Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Denies Comment on Palestinian Authority *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Peres: Negotiations on Declaration Complete *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Rejects UN Troops in Gaza, Jericho *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
Interviewed on Accord *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 49
Says No Alternative to Agreement *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 5 Sep]* 50
Rabin, Peres Discuss PLO-Israel Recognition *[Jerusalem Radio]* 51
Ramon: No IDF Intervention in Gaza After Accord *[Jerusalem Radio]* 51
Savir: IDF To Redeploy Within 7 Months of Signing *[Jerusalem Radio]* 51
Rabin Approves Establishment of Civil Guard Stations *[Jerusalem TV]* 51
Shahal on Security in Settlements *[Jerusalem Radio]* 52
Four Iraqis Cross Border From Jordan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 52

JORDAN

Al-Majali: Jordan Ready To Block West Bank Exodus *[Amman Radio]* 53
King, 'Arafat Confer on Palestinian Decision *[Amman TV]* 53
King Answers Reporters' Questions on Gaza-Jericho 53
English-Language Press Conference *[Amman Radio]* 53
Arabic-Language Press Conference *[Amman Radio]* 58
'New Era' in Relations With PLO Seen *[JORDAN TIMES 4 Sep]* 61
Press React to King's 4 Sep News Conference *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 5 Sep, etc.]* 63
Information Minister on PLO-Israeli Accord *[AL-MASIRAH 6 Sep]* 65
Reports of Jordanian-Israeli Accord 'Untrue' *[WAKH]* 66
Muslim Brotherhood Rejects Gaza-Jericho Plan *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 3 Sep]* 66
Islamists, Leftists Stage Protest at al-Baq'ah *[JORDAN TIMES 4 Sep]* 66
Austrian President Klestil Pays Official Visit 67
Arrives in Amman 4 Sep *[Amman TV]* 67
Confers With King on Peace Process *[Amman Radio]* 68
King, Klestil Brief Press *[Amman Radio]* 68
Seen Off by King Husayn *[Amman Radio]* 70
King, Queen Leave for UK on 'Private Visit' *[Amman Radio]* 70
King Cancels Asia Trip in Wake of Regional Events *[JORDAN TIMES 5 Sep]* 70

LEBANON

Buwayz Denies Accord With Israel Imminent *[VOL]* 71
Al-Hariri Criticizes Israeli-Palestinian Accord *[Beirut Radio]* 71
Leaders Confer With al-Asad, King Husayn *[Beirut Radio]* 72
Buwayz Receives Kozyrev Message *[Beirut Radio]* 72
Syria's al-Shar' Arrives With Message, Meets al-Hirawi *[Beirut Radio]* 72
Al-Shar', Buwayz Comment After Talks *[VOL]* 72
Former Speaker Criticizes PLO Envoy's Remarks *[VOL]* 73
Junblatt Views Domestic Coexistence, Gaza-Jericho *[VOM]* 74
Hizballah's Yazbik Urges Continued Resistance *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 74

SYRIA

'Arafat Discusses Recent Developments With al-Asad 75
Arrives in Damascus 5 Sep *[Damascus Radio]* 75
Al-Asad: PLO Must Decide Own Future *[Damascus Radio]* 75
'Arafat Departure Statement Reported *[Damascus Radio]* 75

Lebanon's al-Hirawi, Jordan's Husayn Phone al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 75
Khaddam, al-Zu'bi Receive Lebanon's al-Hariri *[Damascus Radio]* 75
Sources Report Planned U.S. Presence in Golan *[Nicosia KHARAVYI TIS DHEVTERAS 6 Sep]* 75
Ba'th Official: Syria Rejects 'Separate' Solutions *[SANA]* 76
Paper Dismisses Breakthrough, Talks with Israel *[SANA]* 76

SOUTH ASIA

India

Prime Minister Departs for Talks in PRC *[Delhi Radio]* 77
Goverment Likely To Lift South Africa Sanctions *[Delhi Radio]* 77
Bomb Explodes in Boombay Stock Exchange Building *[Delhi TV]* 77
Pranab Mukherjee Resumes Post as Commerce Minister *[Delhi Radio]* 77
Government To Proceed on Bill Delinking Religion, Politics *[Delhi Radio]* 78
Minister Stresses Government Commitment to Bill *[Delhi Radio]* 78
BJP Criticizes Delinking Move *[Delhi Radio]* 78
Paper Debunks Proposed Bill *[INDIAN EXPRESS 20 Aug]* 78
New Naval Chief To Assume Office *[Delhi Radio]* 79
Defense Ministry Plans Face Lengthy Delays *[INDIAN EXPRESS 28 Aug]* 79

Iran

Foreign Ministry Condemns PLO-Israeli 'Compromise' *[Tehran Radio]* 80
Further on Condemnation of Accord *[IRNA]* 80
Syrian Shift Seen After 'Arafat-al-Asad Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 80
Egyptian Paper Alleges Tehran Oil Sales to Israel *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 28 Aug]* 81
Tehran Denies 'Baseless' Report *[IRNA]* 81
U.S. Policy Criticized in PRC Ship Incident *[Tehran International]* 81
Event Caused 'Loss of Trust' *[Tehran Radio]* 82
Velayati Warns Armenia on Clashes With Azerbaijan *[IRNA]* 82
Iranian Troops Guarding Dams *[AFP]* 83
Aliyev's Moscow Trip Viewed *[Tehran International]* 83
Refugee Camp To Be Built at Azerbaijani Request *[Tehran Radio]* 84
Aliyev Thanks Tehran for Camps *[Tehran International]* 84
Red Crescent Society Plans To Aid Refugees *[IRNA]* 84
Velayati, Pakistan's Sattar Call For Aid to Azerbaijan *[IRNA]* 84
President Meets With Lebanon's Fadlallah *[Tehran TV]* 84
Execution of Algerian Islamists Indicates 'Crisis' *[Tehran Radio]* 85
Ouster of Prime Minister Viewed *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 26 Aug]* 85

Pakistan

Security, Nonproliferation Talks Open With U.S. *[Islamabad TV]* 86
Foreign Secretary on 'Constructive,' 'Positive' Talks *[Islamabad International]* 86

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Sources on Prospects for Signing Agreement

TA0609171993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Telephone discussion between Mikha Friedman in the Tel Aviv studio and reporter in Washington Natan Gutman—live]

[Excerpt] [Friedman] It is Labor Day in the United States, and the Americans do not work today, right?

[Gutman] It is forbidden to work today, and the Americans do not indeed. Still, Israelis are hard at work here, and Israeli sources told us interesting things this morning about the current negotiations with the PLO. According to Israeli sources in Washington, there are still three or four points pending in the Israeli-PLO negotiations on the mutual recognition issue. So, for example, there is no argument that the Palestinians will agree to recognize the State of Israel's legitimacy, but there is still argument on the phrasing of this clause. There is no argument that the PLO should renounce terror, but the semantics and formulation involved are still subject to argument. The Israeli sources say the difficulties are technical and semantic in nature, that there are no problems of principle in the Israeli-PLO negotiations. Technically, it is possible that the agreement of principles will be signed this coming Monday [13 September], without announcing the mutual Israeli-PLO recognition, but the assumption is that this will not happen.

Yesterday, Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat's adviser, said in an interview on U.S. television that it will take another three to four weeks to ratify the agreement in the PLO institutions due to Israel's insistence that the PLO covenant be changed. Today, the Israeli sources say we do not insist that the agreement be approved by the Palestine National Council [PNC] since this would require more time; we are settling for executive signing, with the PNC approving the agreement retroactively later. In other words, Israel is prepared for a shorter timetable, with the ratification by the PNC, the PLO's supreme body, following the signing, which is slated for this coming Monday.

[Friedman] Is 13 September, next Monday, still the target date acceptable to all sides for the signing of the Oslo agreement at least?

[Gutman] Next Monday, 13 September, or Super Monday, as it is already called in the American media, is the date for the signing of the Oslo agreement at least, but apparently also for the mutual recognition. The Israeli sources say that past experience shows that when a deadline is set, when a red line for signing is presented, problems seem to be solved so that agreements become possible by that date.

[Friedman] It will all happen a week from today then. Natan Gutman, our correspondent in Washington, thank you very much.

[Gutman] Thank you.

Palestinian Delegation Said Optimistic on Agreement

TA0609080393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Report from Washington by Moti Amir]

[Text] A festive atmosphere was evinced by Palestinian delegation members yesterday in Washington. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the delegation, told us she was more optimistic now that Yasir 'Arafat has secured the support of Syria and the Gulf Emirates, even though they have not publicized their support. Now it is possible that the signing ceremony will indeed be held in Washington next Monday [13 September], seeing that 'Arafat has also managed to muster a majority of the PLO Executive Committee to ratify the agreement and allow him to issue the declaration of mutual recognition.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that things are now wrapped up. He added that it would be preferable if George Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, would give his support—perhaps even Nayif Hawatimah, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. So far, the two are still opposed to the interim agreement between Israel and the PLO, but said they will not join the rejectionist opposition front, headed by the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leadership in Amman.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi also said that following the signing of the agreement he hopes to be left alone in peace and quiet for several years, without any political involvement.

The heads of the Palestinian delegation also praised Faysal al-Husayni for securing support for the agreement among the residents of the territories, noting that while 'Arafat operated in the Arab World, al-Husayni exerted all his weight to explain and recruit the support of the residents of the territories.

Now that al-Asad has given his support for the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, the question is whether the talks along the Israeli-Syrian track—which are to resume tomorrow—will also be accelerated. It is assesed that the rules of the game have changed and that there will be a breakthrough with Syria, a thing which will also spur on Lebanon and Jordan.

A source in the Palestinian delegation emphasized that the signing ceremony in the White House next Monday will be attended by PLO's Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], and the foreign ministers of Israel, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, in order to sign the interim agreement between Israel and the Palestinians and a declaration of principles for the continuation of the negotiations between Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

Sha'th on Significance of Israeli Recognition of PLO

NC0509083693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Washington, 5 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to the Palestinian president and general coordinator of the Palestinian negotiating delegation in Washington, has stressed the importance of mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, particularly to the Palestinian side. He said that while the PLO's recognition of Israel does not add much to the "Geneva formula," in which 'Arafat recognized Israel's right to exist in 1988, Israel's recognition of the PLO has three practical and direct benefits.

He said that the first benefit is that from now on the PLO will be the party representing the Palestinians in the peace process. Consequently, it will be directly involved in all future steps, and this naturally means that the PLO will be the party that will sign the Palestinian-Israeli agreement

In statements he made in Washington, Sha'th noted that the second benefit of Israel's recognition of the PLO is that the PLO will assume actual authority on the ground before the elections specified in the declaration of principles are held. This, he added, means that the PLO will appoint officials everywhere and in all sectors and bring in the Palestinian police forces affiliated with it, whether "from inside or outside" to act as a police force, not to mention that the "leadership" will be present on Palestinian territories in Gaza and Jericho.

Dr. Sha'th added that the third benefit is that such recognition would imply an acknowledgement by Israel for the first time of the unity of the Palestinian people inside and the outside the territories, which means recognition of rights beyond those of the Palestinians inside. This specifically means opening the door before two important issues for the Palestinians; that is, the question of refugees and the right of return.

Out of its awareness of these practical and direct benefits, the PLO is keen on and endeavors to secure Israel's recognition of the PLO before signing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which is expected to be made next week.

Dr. Sha'th disclosed that the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations are taking place in other places beside the Norwegian capital Oslo, which was the venue of the first secret talks between the two sides that were revealed only last week. He hinted that these negotiations deal with the issue of Jerusalem and some other points of concern to the Palestinian side. He added that some solutions for these points could be found and added later to the agreement.

The Palestinian official stressed that the PLO did not give up anything. In fact it gained some things and put off others. He added: He who carefully reads the agreement will find that the Palestinian negotiator did not give up Jerusalem. He pointed out that the "geographical jurisdiction" of the Palestinian government will be complete, except for the issues to be negotiated in the final stage. This means that the exception here is neither political, regional, nor administrative, but just a question of time, he said.

Dr. Sha'th explained that the Palestinian negotiator had left the door open to regaining the rights of Palestinians who left the West Bank and Gaza in and after 1967. The agreement stipulates that the "Palestinian displaced persons whose names appeared in registers and documents on 4 June 1967 in the West Bank and Gaza will maintain their full rights, even if they cannot vote for practical reasons, he added. This means that if they cannot vote for practical and not political reasons, this does not affect their right to return during the interim period of self-rule, he added.

Sha'th noted that the new agreement and recognition of the PLO constitute a substantial and qualitative turn for the Palestinian issue, since they mean recognition of the Palestinian people's right, particularly their right to self-determination. In addition, the PLO's signature of the agreement at such an international level will put an end to its isolation and lead to official recognition of it worldwide, after the United States had stood as an obstacle to this.

'Abd-al-Shafi: 'Not Too Late' To Reject Accord

JN0409111793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Sep 93 p 25

[By Muhammad Dalbuh]

[Text] Washington—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, believes that there is still hope that the PLO leadership will not sign the agreement on a limited self-rule reached with the Israelis on 20 August.

In an exclusive statement, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: It is still not too late. Referring to his rejection of this agreement, he added: I will not sign this agreement because I did not take part in it and I was not consulted on it.

He defined the way the implementation of this agreement, which created new division in the Palestinian arena, can be stopped. He said: This agreement should be thoroughly discussed inside the PLO institutions with the participation of all Palestinian political factions, particularly the Executive Committee and the PLO Central Council.

'Abd-al-Shafi urged all factions to make a decision ending the dispute in the Palestinian arena over both the agreement and the negotiations in their entirety. He stressed that this should take place in a democratic and objective way. He also said the opposing factions and personalities should have a strong presence in these institutions so that they can participate in settling the dispute in the best interests of the Palestinian national action and urged them to take a responsible position.

The circles opposed to this agreement say that a decision in favor of this agreement will be made in principle if discussed by the PLO Executive Committee and the PLO Central Council because most of their members support 'Arafat. Therefore, 'Abd-al-Shafi called for a popular referendum to settle the issue because the provisions of this agreement harm the future of the entire Palestinian people. However, he cautioned against settling the dispute in the Palestinian arena in a nondemocratic way by resorting to arms and force. He said: The reports I heard about clashes in Gaza between the supporters and opponents of the agreement, including the wounding of a number of people, are cause for concern.

Asked about the reasons behind the PLO's signing of this agreement, he said he could not clearly answer this question.

'Abd-al-Shafi said that the PLO should answer this question. However, he added that as the official negotiating process "was deadlocked and the situation in the occupied territories was continuously deteriorating, an urgent need has arisen to get of this situation. Therefore, there have been attempts through back channels to end the occupation. Such efforts are acceptable." He said that there has been no contradiction between the existence of an official delegation, imposed by necessity, holding public discussions and the existence of secret contacts. However, he said, the other channels were supposed to help the negotiating team at the negotiating table within the framework of the official negotiations.

On whether the agreement meets the minimum level of the Palestinian demands, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: "My objection and reservations are because the agreement fails to stress that continued settlement activity contravenes the principle of peace, the points of reference of the peace process, and Resolution 242, and ignores the fact that Israel is an occupation force. In other words, the settlement activity must be completely halted in all areas, including Jerusalem."

He added that in response to clear instructions from the PLO leadership, the Palestinian delegation insisted on the following:

- "We demanded that settlement activity be halted.
- "We demanded full territorial jurisdiction over the territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem.
- "We demanded administrative jurisdiction over all residents of the occupied territories.
- "We objected to the existence of an independent Israeli entity (the settlements) in the occupied territories.
- "We demanded that Israel respect the Geneva Conventions."

He indicated that these demands led the negotiations to a deadlock.

'Abd-al-Shafi said: Comparing these demands with the provisions of the new agreement, we find that the agreement "does not meet any of these demands."

On Arab coordination and whether the agreement is considered a separate agreement that will weaken the positions of other Arab parties to the negotiations, 'Abd-al-Shafi said: "In principle and in practice, the participating Arab parties have agreed on coordination and stressed the unity of the Arab position since the beginning of the negotiations. However, coordination was not exercised as seriously as it should have been. I cannot point the finger of blame at anyone."

He indicated that what has happened "overlooks the principle of coordination and the Arabs are dissatisfied."

He added that coordination is not a luxury, but a necessity. He said that coordination serves Arab interests and that maintaining a unified Arab position is important for all parties, especially the Palestinians.

Israelis Deny Plan To Recognize Golan as Syrian

TA0509055293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Israel does not intend to announce its recognition of Syria's sovereignty over all of the Golan Heights this week. Israeli sources told our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan that they do not share the head of the Syrian delegation's optimism regarding agreement on a joint working paper prior to the end of the current round of talks. This, despite the fact that the Syrian delegation has expressed views that are closer to the Israeli position regarding the security arrangements on the Golan Heights after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraws from part of the territory.

Our correspondent adds that this weekend, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met with Itamar Rabinovich, the Israeli ambassador to Washington and head of the delegation to the talks with Syria, in order to discuss future developments in the peace talks.

Rabinovich Says No Secret Syrian Talks

TA0509180093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich in Washington by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Is 13 September a target date on which we hope an agreement will be signed, or is that a fixed date for the signing of an Israeli-Palestinian agreement in Washington?

[Rabinovich] The 13th of September is, first and foremost, the date on which the current round of talks in Washington was initially supposed to end. On the assumption that the current negotiations on the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, mainly being conducted in

Europe, will conclude successfully, we all want the signing ceremony to take place on 13 September. The Israeli side is, however, concentrating less on the date and the ceremony and more on the need to first conclude the negotiations themselves.

[Mardor] What work still remains on the Oslo accord?

[Rabinovich] The main issues on the agenda do not touch on the Oslo agreement itself but on the second stage. In Oslo, agreement was reached on a declaration of principles—Gaza-Jericho First and the arrangements for self-government—while beyond that there is Israeli-PLO mutual recognition. The negotiations are now focused on the second stage, not the Oslo agreement, which for us is a sealed agreement.

[Friedman] Thirteen is an unlucky number in our tradition, as you know.

[Mardor] In Jewish tradition, it is not an unlucky number.

[Rabinovich] I did not think about that at my bar mitzvah.

[Mardor] You know that CNN's Ralph Begleiter called it Super Monday. Does the embassy also see it that way?

[Rabinovich] No, and for two reasons. First, I think that Ralph Begleiter's report contained elements we know nothing about, such as that the Saudi and Tunisian foreign ministers would attend. The report perhaps exaggerated the event beyond its true scope. Second, we in the embassy, and I believe also our colleagues in the government, are still focusing on the negotiations themselves and less on the ceremony. Therefore, language taken from American football is a little premature.

[Friedman] Among the following teams: Rubinstein-'Abd-al- Shafi, Peres-Qaddumi, Rabin-'Arafat, which looks the most reasonable to you to be the ones to sign the accords?

[Rabinovich] Since we Israelis have genuinely not become enmeshed in the details of the ceremony, we have not dealt with the Israeli presence, therefore I will not guess. In such negotiations fixing a date and the level of the participants is not necessarily a wise tactical move because it creates the impression on the other side that emotionally you are already dealing with the signing ceremony. Therefore, you might be psychologically weakened in the remaining negotiations.

[Friedman] And emotionally you are not yet at the signing ceremony?

[Rabinovich] No, as I said, we are still negotiating, doing the work itself.

[Mardor] Reports in Israel said that you met with 40 congressmen over the weekend to convince them to support U.S. recognition of the PLO. Is that true or is it imaginary that an Israeli ambassador would be doing something like that?

[Rabinovich] There is a core of truth to that and two inaccurate aspects. I did not meet with congressmen and senators, except for two or three, but I spoke on the phone with many of them, not to win their support, but to inform them of what is happening. They are senior congressmen and senators, heads of committees, who deal year round with aid and defense aid, an issue close to our hearts—many are also Jewish—and we thought that it would be proper to update them. They have the right to learn from an authorized Israeli source what is happening beyond what the media reports.

[Friedman] Over the weekend there were reports here, I assume from Palestinian sources, of a secret track between Israel and Syria, based in Madrid. What do you know about that?

[Rabinovich] I do not know anything about it. It is hard for me to believe that it is true. I know that the credibility of an Israeli negotiator who denies secret tracks might be low, but I can say wholeheartedly that the Washington talks and the role played by the U.S. secretary of state during his recent trip to the region make up all the talks between Israel and Syria. There are no secret tracks and no need for them.

[Friedman] It might be so secret that even you do not know about it.

[Rabinovich] I do not rule that out, I just do not think it is realistic.

Denies Breakthrough Imminent

TA0609191993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich by Arye Golan in Washington—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Golan] Is Israel prepared to announce that it recognizes Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights in return for a Syrian announcement that it is ready to make full and genuine peace as we understand it?

[Rabinovich] For us, that is not on the agenda right now. We are not dealing with a theoretical situation, but with negotiations and how things develop in them, and the development process has not led to that point. I saw the reports in the Israeli and U.S. media, to which I assume you are referring, and they do not reflect what took place in the negotiations. The overall picture at present is that the peace process, from the Israeli point of view, is focused on the Palestinian track, with an effort to finalize and sign an agreement early next week.

In the Syrian track, we had a relatively good week of deliberations. We managed to finalize several points, but I would call them more technical than substantial. We

will touch on the heart of the deliberations this week, but the substance before us does not contain anything like what appeared in the Israeli and U.S. media.

[Golan] Perhaps the time has come to move to secret diplomacy on the Syrian track as well?

[Rabinovich] We are definitely prepared to conduct secret diplomacy. Each conversation with the Syrians and with the secretary of state can remain secret.

Jordanian Negotiator Says Agenda 'Almost Finalized'

JN0509195693 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Carried within "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Jordan Ambassador to the United States, Fayiz al-Tarawinah, said Jordan was genuinely involved in the peace process with the aim of securing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

In an interview with CNN, Dr. al-Tarawinah said the agenda of the Jordanian-Israeli track was almost finalized. He said a Palestinian-Israeli agreement will not mean automatic progress on the Jordanian track.

[Begin recording] [Al-Tarawinah] As you know that we already almost finalized our agenda, draft agenda, and we have it pending on progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track. As a matter of fact, there are certain new dimensions now in the declaration of principles on the Palestinian-Israeli, so one would look a little bit on that respect and get into the provisions that we have on the agenda and to what extent that it would be affected by the declaration of principles.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you feel that recognition of Israel by Jordan would be a major problem?

[Al-Tarawinah] Well, it is part of the peace process as a matter of fact. We are here in a genuine, just, lasting, and comprehensive peace. We are not involved in negotiations of a truce, or a state of the cessation of war. So it all depends on the outcome of the whole process, the comprehensiveness of the peace process, and as a matter of fact, the terms of reference of the whole peace process. 242 and 338 does lead us to this. [end recording]

King Husayn Said Ready To Sign

TA0509195493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Report from Washington by Ehud Ya'ari]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to Jordanian sources in Washington, King Husayn is about to order his delegation to sign the draft agenda that was agreed upon in talks with Israel some time ago. This agenda, in fact, presents the outlines for peace. The king will delay signing the agenda until the agreement with the PLO is signed, perhaps until the 11th round [as heard] of talks, and will minimize the festivities relating to the ceremony.

At the same time Jordan is apprehensive about an exodus of refugees from Gaza to their territory. Jordan would like to facilitate the process of returning uprooted Gazans to the Gaza Strip, and intends to complete the separation of its delegation from the Palestinian delegations. There are also leaks, albeit with no confirmation from Jordan, that the Jordanian citizenship of the 1967 refugees will be revoked, a thing which would constitute a far- reaching move—if it is indeed implemented. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Officials: Mutual Recognition Announcement Soon

Declaration Expected 'Within 24 Hours'

TA0709100993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] A PLO source in Tunis close to the talks with Israel has said that mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO will be announced within 24 hours, thus paving the way for the signing of the autonomy agreement next Monday [13 September].

According to the source, Yasir 'Arafat will publicly announce the PLO's recognition of the State of Israel and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will immediately afterward announce Israel's recognition of the PLO.

Agreement Efforts Viewed

JN0509200593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1710 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Hakam Bal'awi and PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh by Yoni Ben-Menahem in Tunis, carried within "The Week in an Hour" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] Mr. Hakam Bal'awi, when do you think the mutual accord will be announced?

[Bal'awi] Mutual recognition is now a certainty....

[Ben-Menahem, interrupting] In the course of the week?

[Bal'awi] Let me finish first, please. In principle, mutual recognition is a certainty. It may come in a week or in a matter of hours. That will depend on how soon an announcement formula on mutual recognition can be worked out. Quiet political contacts are under way between the Israeli Government and the PLO to work out mutually acceptable drafts so that recognition will take place as soon as possible. As soon as this happens, I think the United States will follow suit and maybe even beat Israel to it. The sooner mutual recognition comes, the sooner the accord can be signed.

[Ben-Menahem] When do you expect the United States to recognize the PLO?

[Bal'awi] I think this will happen quite soon.

[Ben-Menahem] Is it likely today?

[Bal'awi] Maybe tomorrow.

['Abd-Rabbuh] I don't think that there will be obstacles in the way of reaching a formula within a week at the latest. It is important that the two sides recognize each other, and this will lead the two sides to deal with each other directly and openly and on an equal footing.

[Ben-Menahem] Is the PLO amenable to the amendment of some clauses in the Palestinian covenant calling for the destruction of the State of Israel?

['Abd-Rabbuh] There are two dimensions to this issue. Politically, the PLO is prepared to extend recognition to Israel. We did just that when we launched the Palestinian peace initiative in 1989. This may be spelled out once more in the documents that we will exchange. There is the legal aspect. We cannot sort this out in one week. It will take a decision by the Palestine National Council [PNC]. The PLO will put this before the next session of the PNC to wrap the matter up from the legal angle. I think that this point has been superseded and overtaken by events. The commitment of both sides and the agreement itself will render past texts and quarrels over vocabulary irrelevant.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Hakam Bal'awi, let me ask you about your role in the secret contacts between Israel and the PLO, as well as that of Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], and Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi.

[Bal'awi] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi is a friend with whom we have had frequent contacts.

[Ben-Menahem] What is his status in the PLO?

[Bal'awi] He is one of President 'Arafat's advisers.

[Ben-Menahem] Officially.

[Bal'awi] Yes, of course, officially. There's no hiding this fact.

[Ben-Menahem] What was his role during the secret contacts?

[Bal'awi] It was not a role, properly speaking. He was continuously and dynamically involved in solidifying and deepening the peace process through his contacts with Palestinian and Israeli officials. I do not think his role has come to an end. The efforts of Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi and people of his caliber will be required no less in the future. The road ahead is long and arduous. A great deal of work needs to be done in the way of consolidation.

[Ben-Menahem] What role did you in particular have during the political contacts?

[Bal'awi] You may ask Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi about my role and others' when you return to Israel.

[Ben-Menahem] What do you think of Israel's political leadership, particularly Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I cannot take a stand on the political leadership. I will not commit myself here. However, I believe the Israeli prime minister and his government acted with responsibility and a sense of history during the secret contacts.

[Ben-Menahem] When will the Palestinian institutions and the leadership be moved to the Jericho or Gaza areas?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I would like to clarify an important issue. The agreement does not cover only Gaza and Jericho. The agreement covers all the Palestinian territories.

[Ben-Menahem] But, with respect to the transfer of the PLO command to....

['Abd-Rabbuh, interrupting] In the first stage, and according to what the agreement stipulates, it will be before the elections: that is, within nine months, there will be a transfer of the institutions, the Palestinian authority, and Palestinian police forces coming from Jordan, or Egypt....

[Ben-Menahem, interrupting] The Palestine Liberation Army?

['Abd-Rabbuh] No. These forces will be Palestinian police forces that will carry out the tasks of a Palestinian security and police force. It will move to these areas and will carry out tasks of a security nature, of course.

[Ben-Menahem] What PLO institutions that are here in Tunis will be relocated to the West Bank?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We are not speaking about relocating institutions from Tunis. We are speaking about the institutions that will run the affairs of the Palestinian transitional authority in all of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

[Ben-Menahem] And which of PLO leaders will be present in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Those whom the situation requires to be there. But, I believe Yasir 'Arafat will be at their head.

[Ben-Menahem] And the PLO Executive Committee members?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Of course, if....

[Ben-Menahem] Let us take you, for example?

['Abd-Rabbuh] If the first steps for the establishment of the Palestinian authority are made, there will be no place for us outside the Palestinian territories.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Hakam Bal'awi, the Israeli people want to know during the transitional period, with respect to

Gaza and Jericho, what about the armed groups, for example the Fatah Movement? Will the activities continue?

[Bal'awi] I already replied to this, and I will reiterate the reply that these two areas, Gaza and Jericho,will be under the control of the ruling Palestinian authority that will be set up in Gaza and Jericho. Of, course, the Palestinian authority will have direct supervision in all fields and in accordance with the provisions. Palestinian security forces will be in these two areas. These forces and this authority will organize the social and political climate in Gaza and Jericho. Therefore, all acts that disturb the peace course will disappear. At the same time, the Palestinian authority will create new, positive vistas for promoting peace and safeguarding it in a practical manner. However, in exchange for the Palestinian effort that will be made in the two areas, we must take care against Israeli groups, which, perhaps, might carry out actions to upset the peace process in these two areas. The Israeli Government will then have to check these groups. The Palestinian side will also have the right to check these groups. Both our two sides should take care in checking negative reactions to the peace [words indistinct] peace process in [words indistinct] the forthcoming political atmosphere in what [word indistinct] Jerusalem and the West Bank.

[Ben-Menahem] For example, there are Jewish settlements in Gaza, Gush Qatif. They will not experience security problems?

[Bal'awi] Of course not. They will not. But, this is an issue in which I cannot say that there are guarantees. There will be individual cases, but not a decision from the command.

[Ben-Menahem] But, [word indistinct] the Palestinian side there [word indistinct].

[Bal'awi] It is not a decision by the command. Cases like these may take place but not in accordance with a decision by the Palestinian command. [words indistinct] many fields of unintentional [word indistinct] and that are not based on a Palestinian decision. Both our sides should take care about how we promote the peace process, its momentum, and cohesion on the ground and in the arena. We are determined to confront the occupation. We are also determined to implement peace. You must know this well. The Israeli experience with the Palestinian national action and the Palestinian march is protracted and well known. We adopted a strategic, and not tactical, decision for peace. For the sake of this decision, we will be obstinate and sharp in implementing all that serves this march.

Abu-Mazin on Agreement

NC0509115693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1103 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Tunis, 5 Sep (MENA)—Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), member of the PLO Executive Committee, has stated that if agreement is reached on mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, one of the PLO's leaders will go to Washington to sign the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Whether this leader will be Yasir 'Arafat or someone else depends on who attends from the other side, he said.

In an exclusive interview with MENA's correspondent in Tunis today, Abu-Mazin answered a question on whether there are guarantees that 'Arafat and the PLO leadership will return to Jericho after the agreement is signed. He said: If agreement on mutual recognition is reached, this will be followed by another agreement, which will organize the handing over of the territories from which the Israeli Army will withdraw, such as Gaza and Jericho. The provisions will also cover the Palestinian leaders abroad.

Asked whether the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement requires a meeting of the Palestine National Council [PNC], Abu-Mazin said that approval of the agreement is within the jurisdiction of the PLO Executive Committee, but we will submit it to the PLO Central Council.

Asked whether he will head the negotiating delegation after the Gaza-Jericho agreement is signed and whether there will be a change in the composition of the negotiating delegation, Abu-Mazin said: The negotiating delegation is highly qualified and enjoys the confidence of the leadership; there is no need for any change in it.

Asked whether the PLO is considering inviting the PNC to amend the Palestinian National Charter, as Israel has demanded, Abu-Mazin said: If we decide to change some articles in the charter, this will require the approval of the organization's legislative authority, the PNC.

Recognition Scenario Outlined

NC0409125493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian sources revealed to AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in its issue today the scenario by which agreement was reached yesterday for mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO. The agreement stipulates that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will hold an international news conference in Cairo or Tunis some time this week in which he will declare that he fully recognizes Israel, that the PLO will abandon the policy of what is termed armed struggle, and that it will cancel some of the points of the PLO charter calling for violence against Israel.

The scenario also contains the policy to set up a Palestinian state through peaceful means and bilateral negotiations. A few hours after that, Yitzhaq Rabin will appear on Israeli television screens and declare live mutual recognition of the PLO and the Palestinian right to live in an independent state. He will also announce that he will convene a direct meeting with the PLO leadership and allow it immediate access to the occupied territories after removing all restrictions placed on entry

and exit. The PLO will meet directly with Israeli officials and hold comprehensive talks on all issues dealing with Palestinian autonomy and its various stages.

Fatah's representative in Cairo, Zuhdi al-Qidrah, has stated that the stage is now set for convening a direct meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, especially after making some progress in the Gaza-Jericho plan and removing some of the restrictions before convening such a meeting.

Al-Qidrah said the 'Arafat-Rabin meeting will not be finalized before first signing the Gaza-Jericho agreement. After that, agreement will be reached to convene a meeting in Cairo, Morocco, or any other place they agree on.

The Fatah representative in Cairo praised the efforts Egypt is exerting under the leadership of Husni Mubarak to bolster the Palestine question and push the peace process forward to enable the Palestinian people to retrieve their rights. Al-Qidrah said that President Mubarak and the responsible leaders at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry are exerting continuous efforts in the Arab and international arenas to enable the Palestinian people to retrieve their rights.

On the other hand, informed Palestinian sources told AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I that there are contacts currently going on between Egypt and the U.S. Administration to obtain a visa to the United States for Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, who is a member of the PLO Executive Committee, so that he can sign the Gaza-Jericho agreement this week. Abu-Mazin is considered a leading figure in the PLO.

These sources added that a Palestinian-Israeli understanding on the signing conditions was reached yesterday between the PLO and Israel in a European country and that there are still some points being settled now with the objective of finding the final formulation of mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel.

The Palestinian sources pointed out that important progress has been made in the past few hours regarding convening an Arab summit, and that the proposed formula so far is represented in convening a summit in Cairo during Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Egypt in the middle of this week. Palestinian President 'Arafat will join the meeting to discuss all issues and affairs pertaining to the Gaza-Jericho agreement and address all the conflicts that could tarnish relations between the PLO and some of the major countries in the peace process.

Fatah Central Committee Approves Gaza-Jericho Plan

Statement Issued on Approval

NC0409121493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1116 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Tunis, 4 Sep (MENA)—The Central Committee of the Fatah Movement, the largest of the PLO groups, approved the Gaza-Jericho plan at the conclusion of its meetings under PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat early today. This was stated by al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, member of the Fatah Central Committee and Palestinian ambassador to Jordan.

He said that the committee invited the other Palestinian institutions, including the PLO Executive Committee, the Fatah Movement's Revolutionary Council, and the PLO leadership to hold urgent meetings to approve the agreement in preparation for signing it.

In an exclusive statement to MENA in Tunis, 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the Fatah Central Committee approved the draft agreement on Gaza and Jericho following three days of meetings during which it discussed the articles of the agreement and its annexes in detail.

He added that the Central Committee approved this plan as a step toward achieving the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and as part of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles, which includes a comprehensive solution.

He said that the committee called for meetings of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, the PLO Executive Committee, and the PLO leadership to discuss in detail and approve the agreement in preparation for signing and implementing it.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim explained that the Fatah Central Committee decided it was not necessary to convene the PLO Central Council and the Palestine National Council because the substance of the agreement is in line with previous decisions made by these two bodies.

'Abd-al-Rahim said he expects the PLO-Israeli agreement on Gaza-Jericho to be signed in Washington early next week.

He asserted that 'Arafat and the Palestinian leaders will move from Tunis to Jericho approximately four months after the signing and following the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and the entry of Palestinian police forces into the two areas in question.

He added that the Palestinian " 'Ayn Jalut" forces, which are stationed in Egypt, and the "Badr" forces, which are stationed in Jordan, will form part of the Palestinian police forces in Gaza and Jericho.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim praised the Egyptian role in the peace negotiations, particularly in connection with the Gaza-Jericho plan. He said Egypt was fully supportive of the Palestinian stance in all areas of discussion and did not limit itself to the role of mediator or observer. He explained that this position illustrates Egypt's declared position that it is a party to the issue and that it backs the Palestinian people's rights. He noted that Egyptian attitudes have always been favorable to Palestinian interests both by conveying information and by intervening to bridge the Palestinian-Israeli gap.

He added that the Fatah Central Committee declared during its meetings of the past few days that it appreciates Egyptian backing for the Palestinian cause. He said PLO leaders and institutions realize how important Egypt's role is.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will meet in the next few days with President Husni Mubarak to brief him on the stands adopted by Palestinian institutions on the Gaza-Jericho plan. The meeting will come after 'Arafat's visit to Oman.

Further on Committee Vote

NC0409154193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1447 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Tunis, 4 Sep (MENA)—A responsible Palestinian source has stated that the Fatah Central Committee approved the Palestinian-Israeli draft agreement by a majority of 12 members against six, including two members who did not attend the meeting because they were abroad.

In Damascus, the General Union of Palestinian writers and journalists issued a statement today categorically rejecting the agreement and saying that it perpetuates the Israeli occupation of the occupied territories.

In Amman, Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of Hamas, declared the movement's absolute rejection of the plan. During a news conference in Amman today he said that the plan is aimed at halting the intifadah.

Qaddumi on Opposition to Plan

JN0409185893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] While everybody was waiting for the Fatah Central Committee to hold its fourth meeting in Tunis this evening to discuss the Israeli-PLO draft agreement, Yasir 'Arafat announced that he has obtained the committee's support for this draft.

However, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] refrained from answering two questions: The first question is about the voting that took place during the third meeting, and the second question is about the opposition that emerged among PLO Executive Committee members. It is known that two members of the PLO Executive Committee withdrew from the meeting last night. Meanwhile, only 14 members of the 18-man committee participated.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department and one of the Fatah leaders, affirmed the existence of opposition to the draft agreement within the Fatah Central Committee. He noted that four participants objected to the agreement and eight agreed on it, provided that the matter is transferred to the PLO Central Council. Qaddumi said he is not satisfied with the approval, which he described as stumbling, adding that we were compelled to accept this way out in order to save face.

On the PLO's relationship with Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, which are directly involved in the peace process, Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] said: The three countries told the PLO the following: We had an agreement regarding consultation and coordination among the Arabs. Now that you have violated it, you go your way, we'll go our way.

Jihad Denies Commiteee Approval

JN0509073993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Muhammad Jihad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has explained that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is not linked to a comprehensive solution with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. Rather, he said, it is a separate agreement aimed to completely separate the Palestinian side from the Arab nation and to annex the Palestinians to Israel. Mr. Jihad, official in charge of the movement's military organization in the occupied territories, said in a statement to a SANA correspondent that this agreement does not meet the minimum level of the Palestinian Arab people's national legitimate rights and legitimizes the Israeli occupation of the occupied Palestinian territories. He added that the agreement does not cover the Palestinian refugees' right to repatriation, occupied Jerusalem, the settlements issue, or the border security. Nor are there any Arab or international guarantees between the interim and final phases, he said.

The Fatah Central Committee member affirmed that the movement's members are split among themselves and that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and Hani al-Hasan, Khalid al-Hasan, 'Abbas Zaki, Sakhr Abu-Nizar, and Muhammad Jihad are still opposed to this agreement.

In another statement, Muhammad Jihad categorically denied media reports that there is a Fatah Central Committee decision to approve the agreement between the PLO and Israel. In a statement to a SANA correspondent in Tunis last night, Mr. Jihad said that such reports are absolutely baseless and that no decision in this regard has been made. Rather, he said, a recommendation was approved to raise the issue at the Fatah Movement's legitimate institutions, the Revolutionary Council, and the General Council [as heard].

Mr. Jihad explained that it is unreasonable to believe a fateful decision concerning the Palestinian people's issue and fate would be made during one or two sessions of the Fatah Central Committee.

Muhammad Jihad urged news agencies and other news media to be accurate in their reports on the Palestine question, especially under the current critical circumstances.

Abd-Rabbuh Comments on Meeting

JN0409145593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1220 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO spokesman and member of the PLO Executive Committee, by correspondent Kamil Tarabayh on 4 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tarabayh] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, you announced today that the Fatah Central Committee has fully agreed on the text [of the PLO-Israel agreement] presented by Yasir 'Arafat. Have all the attending members of the committee agreed on the text? And what are the most important points in the text presented by Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]?

['Abd-Rabbuh] According to information here, the majority agreed, while two or three had reservations. The agreement includes acceptance of the formula of the agreement on establishing an interim self-government in all the occupied territory, redeploying Israeli forces, ending Israeli military rule and civil administration, and withdrawing in phases, beginning with the Gaza and Jericho areas.

[Tarabayh] There have been talks about the possibility of reaching an agreement on mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel. The Israelis are talking about differences on some words. How has this agreement developed and when do you expect such an agreement to be declared?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Mutual recognition could be reached within a few days. There are differences on some formulas and stands. We say the Israeli formula should contain a clear recognition that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as well as recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

[Tarabayh] Deputy Israeli Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said in a statement today that the return of the 1967 and 1948 refugees will be dealt with within the discussion of the final status of the occupied territory, not within the framework of the interim self- rule period. Meanwhile, many PLO officials said there has been a decision on the return of the 1967 refugees and that their repatriation will take place within the interim period, the self- rule period.

['Abd-Rabbuh] It seems that Mr. Beilin needs to correct his information and return to the provisions of the agreement. However, today we will announce our text of the agreement, since the Israeli side has leaked this text to the Israeli press in a distorted way. The agreement affirms in a clear article that an Arab committee, including the PLO, Israel, Egypt, and Jordan—since the majority of the 1967 refugees went to Egypt and Jordan—will discuss the repatriation arrangements of the 1967 [refugees], taking into consideration the economic and security circumstances. This means the refugees will return in phases during the interim period. This provision is clear and was negotiated for a long time before it was fixed.

[Tarabayh] As you said, Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the final signing will take place within the framework of a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace agreement. What is your information about progress in the other Arab-Israeli tracks?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I would like to make it clear here that the agreement among the five Arab parties says that each party has a right to achieve progress in its track and to reach an agreement. However, the implementation of the agreement should be in a collective and common way. Therefore, I do not understand the talk about separate agreements. In the Jordanian track, for example, an agreement was reached and was initially signed. Syria, Lebanon, or we may also reach agreements and initial them. This is the business of each party. However, with regard to the implementation of the agreement, our stand will remain, as have we agreed with the other Arab parties since the Madrid conference. We agreed that the implementation should be embarked on in a common way, simultaneously with the Arab parties involved in the peace process.

[Tarabayh] However, some Arab parties involved in the peace process accuse the PLO of concluding a secret agreement with Israel, behind the Arab countries' back, thereby violating Arab coordination.

['Abd-Rabbuh] I would like to ask how concluding an agreement will violate the coordination. As I have said, we agreed....

[Tarabayh, interrupting] They mean that there was an agreement to sign a comprehensive and collective agreement, not separate agreements, such as the Camp David agreement, for example.

['Abd-Rabbuh] I would like to recall here the Arab agreements reached within the five-way Arab meetings from the start. I want to reiterate that the agreement among the Arab parties says each party can achieve progress in its track, but the implementation should be collective. This was the understanding underscored by all Arab parties with regard to the comprehensive solution. Our understanding was more progressive than this, but all parties insist on this concept. We, consequently, applied what was reached within the five-way Arab meetings. In other words, each party can have its special meeting, but the official signing and the implementation should be in a common way, simultaneously.

The other point I want to add is the following: If we reach an agreement, we will reach an agreement on the interim period. In other words, we are still behind any other party, because the other Arab parties will reach agreements on the final solution.

[Tarabayh] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh: Some Palestinians believe Jerusalem has been traded for Jericho. Is this true?

['Abd-Rabbuh] This is absolutely untrue. The agreements affirms the establishment of a Palestinian authority over all the occupied territory, that Jerusalem

will be a part of the arrangements of the interim period—through the participation of Jerusalem in terms of voting and nomination in the elections, and that the final solution will be linked with resolving the issue of Jerusalem, being the main topic on the agenda of the final status after two years. All that is being said contrary to this aims to create confusion. We adhere to the fact that no peace treaty will be signed between Israel and Palestine before the problem of Jerusalem is resolved, in accordance with the international resolution and the return of the refugees, and before the settlements throughout all the Palestinian territory are removed.

I also want to say that calling the agreement the Gaza-Jericho agreement is a very big mistake. This is the name Israel is trying to entrench. The agreement deals with all Palestinian territory in order to set up a Palestinian authority. The withdrawal, or the redeployment of Israeli forces, will take place throughout all Palestinian territory. Military rule and civil administration will end throughout all Palestinian territory. The elections and the Palestinian police will assume the security tasks throughout the Palestinian territory, without any exception. The only difference with regard to Gaza and Jericho is that the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from these forces will be total. Meanwhile, the Israeli forces will be redeployed in specific points in the other parts of the West Bank.

[Tarabayh] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, thank you.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Thank you.

'Arafat Gives Statement

JN0409190393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Report by Muhammad Kurayshan from Tunis]

[Text] In a brief statement after leaving his office in Tunis today, President 'Arafat said he had the [Fatah] Central Committee's approval for the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He said the PLO Central Council will convene soon to discuss it.

The meetings of the Central Committee did not produce any statement to that effect. However, the Palestinian news agency WAFA this afternoon reported that the Central Committee decided to present the plan to higher echelons in the next few days. This way, it seems that Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat is seeking, ultimately, to win the PLO's official and legal approval from the PLO Central Council, which is considered the Palestinian legislature when the Palestine National Council is not in session.

It can be said that the Fatah Central Committee has not really, or officially, approved the Gaza-Jericho plan, nor has it rejected it. The decision will be postponed to the PLO Central Council meeting in Tunis soon. What is certain is that Yasir 'Arafat is proceeding without major hurdles toward winning an approval of the agreement, especially after King Husayn today announced his unequivocal support of the agreement. 'Arafat appreciated the Jordanian king's position and said it was a vital expression of the depth of the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship. In an exclusive statement to WAFA, 'Arafat said this relationship will continue and become stronger.

Al-Husayni Discusses Territories' Support for Plan

JN0609144293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1216 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the peace negotiations, after touring the occupied West Bank yesterday, toured the Gaza Strip today. He explained the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and tried to rally popular support for this agreement.

A short while ago, we contacted Faysal al-Husayni and asked him about how many Palestinians in the territories support the agreement and about other issues.

Faysal al-Husayni replied to our questions by saying:

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] I believe that I witnessed the following: The masses were anxious about the nature of the Gaza-Jericho First plan. Some believed that this plan concerns Gaza and Jericho only and is final. But, when we tell them that this is only a first step, to be accompanied by other steps that will cover the other West Bank cities and villages, in order to reach a final solution whose implementation will not exceed the next five years, then matters improve and the people begin to view this agreement as a step in the right direction and that it is a beginning and not the end.

[Unidentified Correspondent] Some Palestinian factions that oppose the agreement called for a popular referendum for the Palestinians in and outside the territories on this agreement. Faysal al-Husayni, the son of Jerusalem and of the occupied Palestinian territories, do you believe that there is broad popular support for such an agreement if it materializes?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that when the agreement is viewed in the context of being a first step, when the people see that this agreement is being implemented, when the legislative council is put to a vote after nine months and the people find that this will be held under the auspices of Palestinian forces and not Israeli forces, I believe that the Palestinian will be able to vote more freely then than if he were to vote in a referendum under the occupation bayonets.

[Correspondent] Do you support the call for a referendum?

[Al-Husayni] What I support is that this agreement be referred to the official bodies and the official quarters within the PLO—the elected bodies. After the agreement is approved by these bodies, it will be implemented on the ground. And after nine months, we will have elections, and the body that will have its say, negatively or positively, on this agreement will be elected.

[Correspondent] How do you describe the atmosphere in the Gaza Strip concerning the agreement?

[Al-Husayni] I can say that the general approach there—and after questions about whether this agreement is a beginning or the end are answered—I believe that the majority support this decision. However, there are also specific conditions and demands, conditions and signs on what the future shall be. For example, the detainees who should be released immediately, the deportees who should return to their country—I am not only speaking about the Marj al-Zuhur deportees but about those who have been deported since 1967—these matters should be implemented. We have the question of Jerusalem, and this isolation of Jerusalem should be lifted as soon as possible. After all these measures, when they materialize and when the Palestinian people see that the other party implements things on the ground, then the support for this agreement will be overwhelming.

[Correspondent] Are you reassured as to the Arab character of Jerusalem, as to the Arab and Palestinian affiliation of Jerusalem against the backdrop of this agreement?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that the agreement gives certain signs that we are not speaking from outside Jerusalem, but we are speaking about the Jerusalem issue. Allow me to say here that neither agreements nor guarantees will safeguard Jerusalem for me. My ability to impose a fait accompli in Jerusalem will safeguard Jerusalem for us in the future.

[Correspondent] A last question, Mr. Faysal al-Husayni. Have you any idea about when the Israeli-Palestinian agreement will be officially signed, including the document on mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel?

[Al-Husayni] I have nothing official on this issue. There are expectations. We hear that such a thing will take place before the end of the 11th round, that is in the first half of this month. However, I am not sure about this.

[Correspondent] Are you satisfied with the results of the talks that were held between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat in Damascus?

[Al-Husayni] As of yet, we have not been informed about the details. However, the fact that there were such meetings is a positive step.

[Correspondent] Faysal al-Husayni, thank you. [end recording]

'Arafat Message to West Bank Seminar Reported

LD0309203893 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Sep 93

["Text" of message by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to the "Democracy is the Solution—Jerusalem" seminar in Bir Zayt; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Greetings sisters and brothers participating in the "Democracy is the Solution-Jerusalem" seminar:

While you are holding your first seminar, titled "Democracy is the Solution," it is my pleasure to send you my warmest greetings and best wishes for success, particularly because the topics that this seminar raises and discusses are real and have a great impact on the lives of our Palestinian people, on our Arab nation and its peoples, and also on the states in the region.

The effective importance of democracy and human rights has increased in the life of states and peoples, especially in defining the priorities of both the internal and foreign policies for all the countries of the world. These two topics now constitute the cornerstone in assessing the response of political leaders and political regimes to the developments that are rapidly unfolding in today's world. These two topics are now also closely connected to social and economic development in most countries of the world.

There is no doubt that man cannot live by bread alone. However, without bread, man cannot realize the dream and goal of establishing a society based on fairness, equal opportunity, equality, social justice, free and responsible participation in political life based on multiparty politics and democracy, respect of the rights of individuals and society through free expression, free exercise of basic rights in faith, creed, education, and development, without any discrimination between the sexes, and also the right of peoples to self-determination.

The efforts of the international community to achieve democracy, respect human rights, and guarantee the right of peoples to self-determination has been confirmed in the UN Charter, UN resolutions, international law, and the Geneva Conventions—especially the Fourth Geneva Convention—as human values that cannot be infringed upon or whose close connections cannot be undervalued.

Our people have been suffering for several decades now, as a result of the violation of their human and basic rights and of their individual and collective democratic freedoms. They have been deprived of the latter because of the Israeli occupation and the latter's oppressive and criminal policies in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Holy Jerusalem. They have suffered particularly from the iron-fist policy—killings, arrests, deportations, the demolition and closing down of dwellings, the uprooting of trees, the destruction of plants, the confiscation of water and land, as well as the building of settlements and the isolation of the occupied territories from each other. This includes the isolation of Holy Jerusalem, the violation of the Islamic and Christian holy places, and the banning of our people's freedom to practice their religious rites.

Add to this additional violations in the areas of health, education, and social affairs. Our people in the camps are facing complicated, compound, and bitter sufferings as a result of the conditions imposed on them, particularly

regarding the continuation of the Israeli occupation and savage acts of aggression by Israel on the camps and locations where our people gather. Despite the difficult and bitter circumstances imposed by the occupation on our people, and despite the circumstances of living in the diaspora, our Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO—their sole and legitimate representative—have been able to build the edifice of democracy during their revolutionary march and just struggle to end the Israeli occupation and to regain their national inalienable rights.

We are proud of our democracy in the Palestinian arena—which coincided with our struggle—because it was one of the most difficult democracies from the point of view of its building, its preservation, and its continuation. This democracy was the protective shield of our struggling march, where the positive interpretations [ijtihadat] of our people were nurtured through the continuous work toward the recovery of the national rights of our people.

Our democracy was distinguished by the wide political participation of the various segments of our people, by political pluralism, by consultation and Shura, by the majority's respect of the minority's opinion, the acquiescence of the minority with the opinion of the majority, and the supremacy of the language of dialogue with those holding the other opinion upholding it as a principle approved by the group and practiced until now.

The Palestinian Declaration of Independence in 1988 defined this democratic system for the independent state of Palestine because it stipulated the enjoyment by our Palestinian people of the full equality of rights and the protection of their religious and political beliefs and their human dignity within a democratic parliamentary system based on the foundation of the freedom of opinion [passage indistinct], man and woman in the shadow of a Constitution that believes and ensures the supremacy of law, the independent judiciary, and the full loyalty to the spiritual and cultural heritage of Palestine in terms of tolerance and coexistence—tolerance between the religions throughout the centuries.

As you well know, the peace negotiations that took place in Washington for more than 20 months did not achieve the hoped for results for many reasons, a matter that placed the peace process in a deadlock. We had tried through a number of channels and through fraternal and friendly parties to break through the impasse that the operation had reached through private, official, and direct talks between us and the Israeli side. We were able, as a result of these efforts, to reach a form of initial agreement between a delegation from the PLO and a delegation from the Israeli Government.

This formula contains a declaration of principles based on the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 as the objective of the negotiation process, and also the geographical jurisdiction of the Palestinian authority over the lands of the West Bank and Gaza Strip—with the commitment to discuss the subjects of holy Jerusalem, the settlements, and the return of the refugees and others at the negotiations of the final stage, which will begin at the start of the third year at the latest.

This agreement also includes the withdrawal of Israeli military rule and Israeli civil administration and the holding of elections for a Palestinian council within nine months. This council will assume control over the land and over all the powers dealing with the various aspects of the life of the Palestinian people and their destiny.

This agreement also includes the assembling of Israeli forces in specific points outside the inhabited areas and handing over internal security to Palestinian security. It also includes the formation of a joint committee to discuss arrangements for the return of people displaced since 1967. The text of the agreement also includes a complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the entry of Palestinian security forces into these two areas.

Within this context, the PLO delegation and the Israeli Government delegation reached an understanding on taking a qualitative step within the next few days through mutual recognition between the two sides and a public meeting between them, in order to open a new page in the negotiations and to help in reaching an agreement concerning the transitional stage and talks on the final solution. The final solution must include the return of holy Jerusalem and all the occupied territories in order to attain a just and lasting peace in the region—which will guarantee our people their right to self-determination and independence.

Today we are entering a critical and decisive historical turning point in the just struggle of our people. We are called on to work for the consolidation and protection of the national unity of our people, which is our instrument for the achievement of victory and attaining our lofty national objectives.

We reiterate at your venerable seminar our people's respect for the democratic system and the principles and foundations on which it is based, to enable our people to reconstruct its homeland, build its democratic political entity, and contribute effectively to the making of civilization in the interest of all mankind.

Our Palestinian people work for the achievement of a just peace in the land of peace, the blessed land of Palestine. Peace in the region and in the world passes through the realization of a just Palestinian peace. We, the sons of this blessed land, owners of the heavenly messages that were revealed in the land of Palestine to herald the advent of good, justice, equality, respect for human rights, and the right to self-determination to people, away from hatred, racism, and violence, shall remain attached to the right approach that began in our holy land and gave mankind its humane features through forgiveness, noble fraternity, peaceful coexistence, and cooperation.

Thank you, and until we meet on the blessed land of the state of Palestine, I wish you and your seminar success, God willing. Peace, God's mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Al-Hut Fears Gaza-Jericho Marks End of Process

NC0509081993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] PLO representative in Lebanon Shafiq al-Hut has expressed fear that the Gaza-Jericho option will be the end of the process and that no withdrawal, return of Palestinians, or self- determination will take place. Al-Hut said there is no explicit provision in the agreement for withdrawal from the occupied territories. He maintained that the resettlement of Palestinians in the Arab countries is a reality, and he demanded civil rights for the Palestinians in Lebanon.

Urges 'Level-Headed' Opposition

NC0509100293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Shafiq al-Hut, representative of the PLO in Beirut, has said that he suspended his membership in the PLO Executive committee because he is worried that the current developments in the Palestinian arena, particularly with regard to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, may not be in the interest of the Palestinian people.

Al-Hut pointed out that the plan for agreement led and will lead to differences among Palestinians, but he called for these differences to be addressed in a level-headed, rather than an emotional, way.

In an interview with our radio, al-Hut said that there are dangers and obstacles facing the plan. Al-Hut said these have to do with the efforts to establish a Palestinian state and implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. There are 3 million Palestinians living in the diaspora who still face an uncertain future, he added. The Palestinian official voiced hope that the situation will not deteriorate further, saying that such deterioration could lead to grave consequences.

Warns Syria Could Foil Accord

NC0509102993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Beirut, 5 Sep (MENA)—Shafiq al-Hut, PLO representative in Beirut, has emphasized that he will attend the meetings of the PLO's Central Council, which groups 120 members representing all forces in the Palestine National Council, to discuss the Palestinian-Israeli Gaza-Jericho agreement for limited self-rule.

In a statement to MENA, al-Hut said that his participation does not conflict with his position to suspend his membership in the PLO's Executive Committee. He pointed out that the Executive Committee, which will meet in Tunis on Wednesday [8 September], will call for the Central Council meeting. Al-Hut warned that if no agreement on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks with Israel is reached during this round of negotiations in a way that satisfies the Syrians and secures full withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon, Syria is capable of obstructing and foiling the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He stressed the need to restore coordination among all parties concerned with the peace talks in the coming stage. [passage omitted]

10 Factions Explain Gaza-Jericho Opposition

JN0309152293 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1635 GMT 2 Sep 93

["Text" of statement by the 10 factions opposing the Middle East peace process, addressed "to the Palestinian Arab people and the Arab and Islamic nation"; place and date not given]

[Text] On 1 September 1993, the central commands of the 10 Palestinian factions held an important extraordinary meeting. The meeting was attended by the secretaries general of the 10 factions and many ranking members of their command staffs. During the meeting, conferees discussed the very serious event represented by the ill-omened draft agreement, the so-called plan to implement administrative self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. This capitulatory and treacherous agreement declared by 'Arafat and his defeated team was semi-unanimously approved by the Zionist enemy government a few days ago.

The 10 Palestinian factions know the serious implications of involvement in the Madrid-Washington path and the threat it poses to our nation's national and pan-Arab fate. These factions have warned against proceeding on this path, they have sought the arbitration of the people, and they have paved the way for comprehensive national dialogue. These factions have worked to foster this dialogue in order to save the cause and the organization from the expected demands.

Today, these factions place before you their concept of the nature and contents of the ill-omened agreement and the dangers it entails for the Palestinian Arab people and our Arab and Islamic nation:

1. The declared draft agreement and its annexes represent full submission to previous American-Zionist proposals. The solution envisioned by these proposals, via administrative self-rule, does not meet the minimum requirements of the Palestinian people's national rights.

2. The 'Arafat team's fabrication that the Gaza-Jericho option means withdrawal from Palestinian territories in return for Palestinian authority is false. This allegation is exposed by the draft agreement itself. Its second annex mentions withdrawal of some Zionist forces, not all Zionist forces. The agreement guarantees the enemy's free movement. It keeps security, roads, and crossing points under its control. This shows that the occupation forces withdrawal is nonexistent.

3. The content of the draft agreement means entrenching and legalizing the occupation. Security, foreign affairs, the settlements, Jerusalem, and sovereignty will be kept under the enemy's unquestioned control. Because the agreement calls for the early transfer of Zionist military and civilian administration positions to Palestinians, these Palestinians will become employees and tools perpetuating the occupation.

4. 'Arafat and his defeated team see themselves as providing a strong police force to maintain the security of the Zionist entity, quell the intifadah, and strike the national and Islamic resistance. This will be done by converting Palestinian Liberation Army members and some of those who resisted the occupation into a police force to subdue the Palestinian people. This will be a prelude to Palestinian civil war.

5. The elements and the authors of the ill-omened treacherous agreement want to seize the national and historic rights of the Palestinian people to Palestine. They want to disregard the unity of the Palestinian people, their cause, their territory, and their fate in Palestine and in the diaspora. They want to bypass their right to liberation and repatriation to Palestine, their homeland.

6. Besides the elements of this agreement, what is even more dangerous is the agreement on a Palestinian-Zionist alliance and cooperation in development, trade, and the economy, in accordance with a Marshall Plan financed by the United States and Europe. This will be accomplished by complete Zionist control over Palestinian territory, Palestinian people, and the Palestinian future.

7. The agreement's reference to inter-Arab ties proposes to make Palestinians a bridge for a Zionist passage to the Arab world. This will further the grand dreams of the Zionist entity by making real the normalization aborted by the Egyptian people, in spite of al-Sadat's surrender.

Masses of our Palestinian people and Arab nation: As the 'Arafat camp promotes this project via statements and declarations and the arguments for an end to the armed struggle option, scrapping the Palestinian National Charter, sloughing off the PLO as a national achievement, and brushing aside all the sacrifices of the Palestinian people and their yearning for return and liberation and self-determination and national independence, the 10 Palestinian factions stress the following:

First, what 'Arafat and his team have done does not represent the Palestinian people, nor reflect their ambitions or the PLO's. Our people are fully aware of the dangers inherent in the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement. If 'Arafat and his team have succeeded in misleading a segment of the Palestinian people suffering inside the homeland for some time under the contention of getting rid of occupation, they cannot mislead these people forever. This is because our people will not accept coexistence or make peace with occupation and the Zionist project. Neither will they exchange their Arab nation and pan-Arab links for the wretched post 'Arafat settled for under the banner of occupation he has swapped for the banner of Jerusalem, national independence, liberation, and return.

Second, the Gaza-Jericho First option is a capitulation to the Zionist project, and will not be the end of the road in our struggle with the Zionist enemy. Along with our people, we will keep up the struggle, using every means at our disposal. The Zionist enemy will not have peace at the expense of our people and their national rights. There is only one choice and that is the choice of liberation—the choice of Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine.

Third, we stress the unity of our people inside Palestine and in the diaspora, just as we do the links of our national cause with the Arab nation. Our people will stand up to all plots of settlement [of Palestinians outside their homeland] or the alternative homeland. They will stick to their right to keep the national struggle going until Palestine is liberated and their return to the homeland and their independence is assured. There is no alternative to Palestine. In this regard, we call on the Arab states to pave the way for our people to continue their national struggle, and not to use this agreement as a pretext to shirk their pan-Arab responsibilities.

Fourth, we call on world public opinion and all international forces of justice not to believe Zionist claims that the Zionist entity has reached peace with the Palestinian people at a time when half our people are still under occupation and oppression. They suffer daily, with their most basic rights confiscated. The other half is enduring homelessness, without having benefited from the application of any UN resolutions providing for their right of return to their homeland Palestine.

Our Palestinian masses: With an eye to the looming dangers and national priorities, the leaders of the 10 factions have made a number of practical decisions reiterating their rejection of the liquidatory, capitulationist, and treasonous project, keeping the valiant intifadah alive. They call for the following:

1. All representatives of the factions and all Palestinian nationalists and other opponents of the capitulationist project, are called upon to pool their efforts by convening popular rallies with the widest possible representation both in Palestine and in the diaspora to express their clear stand against the option of the 'Arafatist capitulation—the Gaza-Jericho option—and to stick to the option of the national struggle against occupation for the sake of liberation and return and self-determination.

2. The 10 Palestinian factions will work for the convocation of a general Palestinian national conference that will include the widest Palestinian representation from inside and from the diaspora. This is needed to safeguard the national cause from liquidation and to rescue the PLO the claws of 'Arafat and his capitulative team, to rescue the PLO's national charter, and to work out a plan that copes with the crucial developments dealing with the Palestinian people.

3. They call on the Arab and international organizations, the Arab League and the United Nations, to allow the Palestinian people's voice, wherever it is, to be heard on the Palestinians' position on all that is going on and to express their right to adhere to their national and historical objectives and their right to continue their just struggle for liberation, return, and self- determination.

O our Palestinian masses: In these historic moments, in which our national cause faces the danger of liquidation, and in light of rapid developments, 'Arafat's defeated leadership and the continuous relinquishment of the national cause through the treacherous and capitulatory plan—the Gaza-Jericho plan—we urge you to be more alert and cautious about what is happening and about the conspiracies against the unity of the people, land, cause, and destiny. All this is unprecedented in the history of our people's struggle. We urge you to shoulder this historic responsibility, along with all the national forces, factions, and figures, by continuing every form of national struggle and by continuing and escalating the glorious popular intifadah to confront the Zionist occupation and its successive measures. We urge you to confront the capitulatory policy of by 'Arafat's Tunis leadership, which no longer represents our people and their will. It is not authorized to speak on their behalf after signing the submissive agreement, represented by the Gaza-Jericho plan and administrative self-rule.

Hail to the just struggle of our people, hail to the masses of the glorious popular intifadah, and hail to our people's masses in Palestine and diaspora. We pledge to you to continue struggling until the realization of all the objectives of our people.

[signed] The 10 Palestinian factions.

PFLP, DFLP Leaders Refuse To Meet With 'Arafat

JN0509184993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Palestinian parties represented in the 10 factions continued to show their opposition to the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, and escalated their attacks against Yasir 'Arafat.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] said the Fatah Central Committee's acceptance of Gaza-Jericho First does not mean that the agreement received Palestinian legitimacy. At the same time, Nayif Hawatimah, [secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP] emphasized that the DFLP will not participate in the PLO Executive Committee or the PLO Central Council meetings, called for by 'Arafat. He said the PFLP and DFLP and other opposition Palestinian forces will take steps within the next few days to confront this plan.

PFLP Sources told Radio Monte Carlo that before his arrival in Damascus, 'Arafat has requested a meeting with PFLP Secretary General George Habash and [the DFLP's] Hawatimah, but the two men refused to meet with him in order to avoid giving him the Palestinian cover that he is seeking, and in order not to allow him to penetrate the opposition ranks, as the PFLP put it.

PFLP's Habash on Establishing Front To Foil Agreement

NC0409072493 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has stated that he is seriously thinking of setting up a broad Palestinian, national, democratic, and Islamic front. He added that he is also thinking of organizing conferences in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the occupied territories to announce the downing of the capitulationist Gaza-Jericho First agreement and to bring down the leadership that sought that option. He emphasized that the PLO is neither individuals nor institutions, but it is first and foremost a charter.

In an interview with the Voice of Light [a Hizballah radio], Habash said that Israel's design behind the Gaza-Jericho agreement is to trigger intra-Palestinian fighting. Habash did not rule out the possibility that the capitulationists could resort to fighting if they found themselves facing an overwhelming popular angry campaign accusing them of losing track of the goal for which the masses fought.

Habash appealed to his comrades in the occupied territories as well as all Palestinians masses not to be dragged into this serious Israeli scheme. He pointed out that the danger of the agreement is not to the Palestinian issue only, but could prepare the ground for a threat against the entire region.

Comments on Rejection of Plan

AU0609115693 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 6 Sep 93 pp 152-153

[Interview with George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by unidentified DER SPIEGEL reporter; place and date not given: "I Want To Go to Jerusalem"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] You have indoctrinated your followers: Whoever betrays the Palestinian people and sells out its interests deserves death as a just punishment. Has PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat sold out the Palestinians' interests?

[Habash] In the critical period, in which we are at the moment, the issue is not reckoning with certain persons. Our main concern is the mass mobilization of Palestinians to thwart the agreement on Gaza and Jericho. This shameful agreement contradicts the central points of the PLO program and the goals of the Palestinians: freedom, independence, and self-determination.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why? The agreement on autonomy for Gaza and Jericho is only a first step, after all.

[Habash] This agreement does not remove the Zionist settlements in the Arab territories. It endangers the intifadah and harbors the seed for the destruction of the Palestinian uprising. It does not take occupied Jerusalem into consideration with one single word. Those who drew up this agreement simply brushed aside all resolutions of the international community, which demand Israel's complete withdrawal from all occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

[DER SPIEGEL] You could not seriously hope to get everything back in one go. After all, 'Arafat has achieved that Israel's troops will withdraw from Gaza and Jericho within four months. Does this not introduce the complete handing over of the occupied territories to the Palestinians?

[Habash] That is what they are pretending, but it is not true. The agreement says that security in the so-called autonomous areas continues to be in the hands of the Israeli occupiers. This is aimed at destroying the intifadah. This deprives the Palestinians of their most important weapon.

[DER SPIEGEL] Has the Palestinian uprising, which Israel has not been able to crush in six years, made Jerusalem ready for compromise?

[Habash] The continuation of the intifadah is the only way to achieve our national goals. Now I wonder why the autocratic PLO leadership....

[DER SPIEGEL] ...that is, 'Arafat....

[Habash] ...voluntarily handed this weapon over to the Israeli occupiers.

[DER SPIEGEL] This means that, if you had your will, the armed struggle would continue, even though thousands of Palestinians have been killed over the past 30 years and not one inch of Palestinian territory has been regained?

[Habash] The armed struggle has not remained unsuccessful. Why did Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres offer a few months ago to withdraw his troops from Gaza? Only because the intifadah took the initiative there and has caused immense sacrifices for the occupiers. This made them realize that they cannot maintain the hot iron of Gaza in the long run.

[DER SPIEGEL] Then, why should one not make use of this opportunity?

[Habash] A question in return: Why not stick to this successful method? If the autocratic PLO leadership had supported an escalation of the intifadah instead of choosing the path of capitulation, the Palestinian people would have achieved much more in the end.

[DER SPIEGEL] For Israel the PLO has always been a gang of murderers and criminals. Now Israel accepts the PLO as a negotiating partner. This is a historic breakthrough, after all.

[Habash] One should not lose sight of reality. This was achieved at the high price of the PLO's giving up the bases on which it was founded: liberation from Israeli occupation, return of all refugees to their homes, and self-determination. The PLO is an institution and not a one-man show. If this organization, which claims to be the sole representative of the Palestinians, distances itself from its own program, it is not surprising that Israel recognizes it.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does this turning away from violence not correspond to the insight that there is no power in the Arab camp that could stand up against Israel?

[Habash] But there is such a power—the unity of the Palestinians, the intifadah, and the rights of the Palestinians, which have been recognized by the international community. The PLO leadership has given up these important positions without a fight.

[DER SPIEGEL] Will you have to resign yourself to it?

[Habash] We are standing in front of a heap of broken pieces. The PLO could have had the Gaza-Jericho option 14 years ago, more cheaply and without the death of so many martyrs. Israel did not even dream of ever getting such concessions. The agreement benefits Israel 100 percent.

[DER SPIEGEL] You constantly refer to the Palestinians' rights, which have been recognized by the United Nations. However, the United Nations has also recognized Israel's right to existence within secure borders. What about that?

[Habash] We will continue our struggle against Israel. We will form a frontline, which will comprise all groups, including the Islamic ones, and which will fight with all means until we have established our independent and free state.

[DER SPIEGEL] This would mean not only a fight with Israel but also a civil war among the Palestinians.

[Habash] The Israelis will not shy away from any efforts to unleash a murderous civil war among the Palestinians. Perhaps the PLO leadership, too, is flirting with such a fight in order to justify its political capitulation. We, on our part, will do everything to prevent this self-mutilation.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you want to torpedo the efforts for peace with new terrorist acts?

[Habash] First of all, the intifadah will be continued. However, we will a also continue the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy in Palestine from the Arab neighboring states.

[DER SPIEGEL] The agreement has also opened the door for a dialogue between the Palestinians and the United States. You are putting all that at stake with your intractability.

[Habash] A political attitude is not changed through dialogue and talks but through shifting the balance of power. This can be changed only if one makes it clear to the Zionists that they only lose as long as they keep our homeland occupied. And the Americans will change their attitude only if they realize that their interests in this region are endangered by their blind support of Israel. We will make the soil under the feet of the Zionist occupiers so hot that they cannot bear it anymore.

[DER SPIEGEL] Was 'Arafat driven to taking the bull by the horns also by the financial crisis of the PLO?

[Habash] The so-called financial crisis of the PLO is only an excuse. The PLO leadership wants to wear our people down with that. But they will not manage it. All Palestinians will insist on their right to return to their homeland. We will never give up Jerusalem. I want to go to Jerusalem, I want to live there. No power in the world can ban the Palestinians from doing that. Do you believe that the mother of a martyr or the widow of a killed man will be satisfied with Gaza and Jericho, these meager remnants of a generous meal? Never.

[DER SPIEGEL] The agreement will bring great benefits to the Palestinians who still live under Israeli occupation now. They will hardly follow your radical appeals.

[Habash] It may be that life will become easier in the occupied territories, that generous economic aid from the outside will improve the social situation. However, at the same time, they know very well that the miserable situation of the refugees who live outside Palestine will not be changed by that. History will be our witness: This agreement will fail.

DFLP Leader Opposes 'Capitulationist' Agreement

NC0609054093 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], who refused to meet with 'Arafat in Damascus yesterday, warned today in an interview with NIDA' AL-WATAN of the schemes being plotted for the Arab region since PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat reached agreement with Israel.

He said this agreement aims to use the Palestinian military police as a deterrent force to confront the intifadah and national resistance. He pointed out that the objective behind this Israeli step is, first and foremost, protecting national security rather than looking out for the interests of the Palestinian people. Local and regional circumstances could create certain factors that will be difficult to avoid if the Arab capitals, Palestinian factions, and Arab nationalist forces do not move to confront this project, as they previously confronted the Lebanese 17 May agreement.

Hawatimah revealed reports about secret agreements that exist between a group belonging to 'Arafat and the Israelis with the knowledge of the foreign ministers of Sweden, the United States, and Egypt. He affirmed that all the forces have decided to confront this project, which he described as capitulationist. All the Palestinian forces have imposed a struggle mechanism that stipulates stepping up armed struggle, bolstering the intifadah, and striking any party that attempts to shackle the resistance fighters, according to Hawatimah's statement.

Hamas Leaders Say Agreement Not Binding to Opposition

JN0509104893 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Sep 93 p 21

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has urged members of the Palestine National Council, the PLO Central Council, and the PLO Executive Committee to immediately tender their resignations to remove the political cover they are providing Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

At a news conference, attended by Hamas official spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah, the Hamas Movement held yesterday, Hamas representative to Jordan Muhammad Nazzal said that Hamas will continue its protracted battle against the Zionist enemy, and that the Gaza-Jericho First agreement is not binding to Hamas or the Palestinian people. He added that recent plans and events will only strengthen our determination, as well as our faith in the soundness of our approach and in our Islamic plan for the liberation of Palestine.

Nazzal went on to say: By endorsing what he termed "the conspiracy," the PLO has lost all claims of representing the Palestinian people and their institutions inside and outside the occupied territories.

The Hamas representative to Jordan appealed to all Palestinian mujahidin and strugglers inside the occupied territories to step up the intifadah and jihad operations against the Zionist enemy. He also urged all Palestinian forces, factions, and independent figures to convene a general national congress to confront the agreement, noting that all national figures and institutions inside and outside the occupied territories must declare opposition to this agreement.

For his part, Ibrahim Ghawshah said that during the meeting the 10 Palestinian factions [opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks] held in Damascus on Wednesday [1 September], the issue of creating a substitute PLO leadership was discussed because the current Palestinian leadership no longer represents the Palestinian people. He indicated that four PLO factions have withdrawn their recognition of the PLO.

Ghawshah added: During the meeting, it was also agreed to hold congresses in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. Afterward, these congresses will convene in a single general congress that will produce a true Palestinian leadership, one that represents the Palestinian people. Such leadership will come up with a national and Islamic political program that sticks by the constants of the Palestinian people.

Ghawshah affirmed that Hamas will not engage in battles against any Palestinian side, noting that his movement will use all conceivable peaceful means in its disputes with all Palestinian sides. I hope that no Palestinian side will be dragged into civil war at this point in time, he said.

Hamas Promises Not To Kill 'Arafat

JN0409200793 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] As events accelerate, the Islamic Hamas Movement said it would not assassinate PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat or instigate a Palestinian civil war to protest the Israeli-PLO deal on self-rule.

But the group, the PLO's main rival in the occupied territories, vowed to mobilize the masses and escalate armed struggle against Israel to foil the accord.

Hamas and its partners in a 10-group, Damascus-based alliance were behind several marches in Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the occupied territories to protest against the deal.

PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] leader George Habash has vowed to keep up attacks against Israel despite the peace draft between the PLO and Israel.

Palestinians skeptical about self-rule have warned against intra-Palestinian fighting, especially in Gaza, between supporters of 'Arafat and supporters of his opponents. Armed activists of the PLO's mainstream Fatah shot and wounded a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the occupied Gaza Strip yesterday.

Islamic Jihad Leader Comments on 'Disastrous' Plan

NC0509084693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Greetings, Dr. al-Shiqaqi.

[Al-Shiqaqi] Greetings to you.

[Correspondent] The Gaza-Jericho plan is the most dramatic event on the regional scene right now. In your opinion, what perils does this plan involve in the Islamic and Palestinian arenas?

[Al-Shiqaqi] First of all, the plan is very dangerous, indeed disastrous. It is the worst scheme ever in the history of the Palestinian people. What we have now is a Zionist-'Arafat alliance with U.S.-Egyptian backing. The plan aims to establish a Zionist pocket in the Gaza Strip in order to strike at the intifadah and the Islamic movement and confront the Islamic tide, not only in Palestine but outside it, in Lebanon, and elsewhere.

The plan will turn the Palestinian scene into one of divisions, fragmentation, strife, and infighting. On the Arab and Islamic scenes, what I see is this: 'Arafat wants the Palestinian people to serve as a bridge for the Israelis, enabling them to infiltrate the Arab and Islamic worlds. Many of the pro-U.S. forces will say: We cannot be more Palestinian than the Palestinians. If the Palestinian have recognized the Zionist entity, why shouldn't we? As a result, the doors of many capitals will be swung open to this Zionist entity, which is hostile to our people, and the U.S. plan to fashion a new Middle East with Israel as the dominating power in its center will succeed.

[Correspondent] Dr. al-Shiqaqi, if this plan involves so much risk, why do you think the PLO approved it?

[Al-Shiqaqi] We have our reservations about the PLO. However, the one who approved the plan was not the PLO, but a man surrounded by a small entourage that is known even in Palestinian circles in Tunisia as the Zionist or Israeli team in the PLO. Even in Tunisia, 'Arafat's clique is called the committee of national treason. This clique is made up of Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Nabil Sha'th, Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and others. These are the ones who have committed national high treason and not the PLO, for all our reservations about the PLO program.

'Arafat's close associates have been in touch with the Zionist enemy for a long time. Some of them would have us think that it is better for us to be allied with the Israelis than with the Arab and Islamic people. These are the enemies of the PLO, of the Palestinian people, of pan-Arabism, and Islam. These are the ones who negotiated secretly and now seek to sign a U.S.-Egyptian-backed agreement.

[Correspondent] Dr. al-Shiqaqi, from your knowledge about Gaza and Jericho, how do the inhabitants there feel about the 'Arafat- Zionist plan?

[Al-Shiqaqi] Generally speaking, the position of the inhabitants is one of shock. The people are either against the plan or too stunned to form an opinion. I do not rule out the possibility of friction and increased tension between the clique that wants to implement this conspiracy and our people.

The situation inside the homeland, as I said, is one of shock and disbelief. The people are either against the plan or too confused to react. They are being flooded with a media campaign from every direction. Yasir 'Arafat is trying to get his voice across to them through loud speakers. He claims that he has not relinquished Jerusalem, Nabulus, or any other site. He has embarked on a large-scale deception campaign to gain Palestinian support to his plan. But we are certain that he has no credibility left and that our people are fully aware of the dangers of this conspiracy.

[Correspondent] Our last question: How do you see the future of the West Bank, Gaza, Jericho, and Jerusalem if the ill-fated agreement is signed?

[Al-Shiqaqi] Let me tell you this: If this scheme is implemented, God forbid, they will be telling us to kiss Jerusalem good-bye, no more Jerusalem.

Islamic Group Declares Jihad Against 'Betrayal'

NC0609173293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] The Islamic Revolutionary Army for the Liberation of Palestine [al-Jaysh al-Thawri al-Islami li Tahrir Filistin] has declared a jihad against the Gaza-Jericho plan, describing it as the greatest betrayal of the Palestinians.

In a statement released in Beirut today, the group said armed struggle will continue until all occupied Palestinian territories have been liberated.

Iran Said To Offer Cash Reward for Killing 'Arafat

NC0509160993 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1530 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Western intelligence sources have stated that Iran and international terrorist organizations have offered a cash reward of several million dollars for the assassination of Yasir 'Arafat. The sources said that the Abu-Nidal Group and the Ahmad Jibril-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command have prepared detailed plans to undermine the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. The plans include attacks on Israeli interests worldwide.

Israel's Dayan Gives Warning to 'Arafat

JN0409194293 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Security around 'Arafat and his top aides was visibly tightened today following warnings revealed by an Israeli parliament member.

Ya'el Dayan, daughter of the former defense minister, Moshe Dayan, who visited 'Arafat twice this year, telephoned PLO officials in Tunis late last night to convey a warning that attacks by Palestinian extremists might be imminent.

Miss Dayan told 'Arafat about the warning, which, she said, was based on information from the Israeli secret service, the Mosad.

'Arafat Receives Letter From Russia's Kozyrev

LD0309183193 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today received a letter from the Russian foreign minister concerning the latest developments in the peace process, its future prospects, and efforts to support this process.

Brother leader Abu-'Ammar was handed this letter by (Rober Toridov), Russian charge d'affaires in Tunis.

PLO Spokesman: Note of Appreciation Sent to U.S.

JN0609181793 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] The PLO has praised the positive and great role the United States is playing to make the Palestinian-Israeli agreement successful by promoting the negotiations on all levels. In a statement carried by the Palestinian news agency WAFA, an official PLO spokesman said that the PLO had sent a message of greeting and appreciation to the United States and its president. The message says that President Clinton's great and primary role in the peace process will guarantee the agreement. The Russian sponsor also played a positive role in the peace process.

The PLO spokesman also expressed the Palestinian leadership's thanks to the Norwegian Government and its foreign minister for their constructive and extensive efforts and for the great facilities they offered to make the Gaza-Jericho First agreement successful.

Repatriation of Fatah Supporters Planned

NC0409120893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Beirut, 4 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian sources say that preparations are under way for implementing the first stage of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Lists of Palestinians who will return to their homeland are being prepared, the sources state. The sources add that some of the returnees will serve as commanders, officers, and soldiers of the police and national guard services in Gaza and Jericho.

Political Palestinian reports today disclose that for the past few days the military command of the Fatah Movement has been holding a census in Palestinian camps of the Gaza-born Palestinians who arrived in Lebanon following 1967. Their numbers range between 75,000 and 100,000, according to the same reports.

These Palestinians are ready to return immediately to Gaza and Jericho. Some of them may participate in

manning the first security force, which will be charged with safeguarding the Palestinian state during a transitional phase of up to five years.

According to the reports, Lieutenant General 'Ala' al-Afandi, Fatah's military commander who is considered 'Arafat's man in Lebanon, arrived in Beirut five days ago with orders from 'Arafat to supervise this process. He travelled immediately to al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre.

According to the reports, Lt. Gen. al-Afandi has begun selecting the Palestinians who will be transferred to Gaza, focusing on those aged between 18 and 30. The young men will undergo training leading to their enrollment in the Palestinian police and national guard that are to assume the responsibility for internal security. Some 50,000 Palestinians originating from Gaza have so far been listed in al-Rashidiyah camp.

According to the reports, the method of transporting these returnees to Gaza directly is being studied. Because their return through Egypt or Jericho will be costly, a proposal was made to transfer them through al-Naqurah port [on the Lebanese-Israeli border] to Gaza port under UN supervision and by agreement with the Israeli side.

Meanwhile, well-informed political sources site Lebanese Government sources that 'Arafat's transfer and repatriation of Palestinians who are loyal to the Fatah Movement of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon to Gaza and Jericho excludes any possibility for clashes between them and the other Palestinian groups opposing the Gaza-Jericho agreement [in Palestinian camps in Lebanon]. The sources rule out any negative implications on the domestic Lebanese scene as a result of this agreement.

Israel To Permit Return of 6 PLO Deportees

NC0609080093 Paris AFP in English 0749 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Sept 6 (AFP)—Israel will soon allow six PLO members who were deported between 1969 and 1972 to return home to their families, a defence ministry spokesman told AFP on Monday [6 September].

"These men fulfil the criteria laid down by the military committees which are examining the return of deportees because they are no longer involved in terrorist activities," spokesman Oded Ben Ami said.

"This is not a gesture of goodwill but part of standard procedure," Ben Ami said, despite the historic agreement between Israel and the PLO to launch autonomy on the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

The families of the men, who were active in Fatah, the main component of the Palestine Liberation Organization, have been notified of the return.

The spokesman added that other Fatah members expelled in the 70's could soon be authorized to live in the occupied territories again.

Three of the six due back shortly were fighters in the PLO's Palestine Liberation Army.

Since Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin won the June 1992 elections a total of 31 long-term Palestinian deportees have returned home.

'Arafat Orders Black Panthers To Stop Attacks

TA0609111293 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 6 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by Yoram Binur]

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has demanded that the Black Panther organization moderate its activities, and totally refrain from harming people suspected of collaboration with Israel. 'Arafat also demanded that the Panthers cease all attacks against Israeli targets in the near future.

HADASHOT received this information from a senior Fatah activist in the northern part of the West Bank, who, among other things, also serves as the Black Panther's contact with the Fatah headquarters in Jordan. The activist, who returned from Jordan one week ago, met with 'Arafat in Amman.

In the northern part of the West Bank, around Janin, there are only 30 members of the Black Panther gang and members of the revolutionary security apparatus, which make up the Fatah's assassination squads. A Fatah activist said that the Black Panthers'position could be best described as "cautious waiting."

Other Palestinian sources close to collaborators in the territories yesterday said that among the members of the Black Panther gang in the northern part of the West Bank there was a small group that would apparently disobey 'Arafat's orders. The collaborators in the West Bank have stepped up security measures and have met with senior defense establishment officials over the past month to discuss their future.

Algeria

Higher State Council Approves New Cabinet

LD0409202293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Today, 4 September, the Higher State Council [HCE] met under the chairmanship of Ali Kafi. Redha Malek, HCE member and prime minister, presented the formation of his government. After discussions, the HCE agreed on the following appointments:

- Minister of National Defense: Lamine Zeroual
- Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mohamed Salah Dembri
- Minister of Interior and Local Communities: Selim Saadi
- Minister of Justice: Mohamed Takiya
- Minister of Economy: Mourad Benachnou
- Minister of Communications: Mohamed Merzoug
- Minister of Religious Affairs: Abdelhafid Amokrane
- Minister of National Education: Ahmed Djebbar
- Minister of Youth and Sports: Sid-Ali Lebib
- Minister of Telecommunications: Tahar Allan
- Minister of Vocational Training: Hacene Laskri
- Minister of Labor and Social Protection: Lounes Bourenane
- Minister of Agriculture: Ahmed Hasmim
- Minister of Equipment: Mokdad Sifi
- Minister of Industry and Mines: Mokhtar Meherzi
- Minister of Transport: Arezki Isli
- Minister of Health and Population: Mohamed Seghir Babes
- Minister of War Veterans: Brahim Chibout
- Minister of Energy: Ahmed Benbitour
- Minister of Housing: Mohamed Meghlaoui
- Minister Delegate for Budget: Ali Brahiti
- Minister Delegate for Commerce: Mustapha Mekraoui
- Minister Delegate for Small and Medium Enterprises: Redha Hamiani
- Minister Delegate for Universities and Scientific Research: Boubekeur Benbouzid
- Secretary of State for Cooperation and Maghreban Affairs: Ahmed Ouyahia
- Government Secretary General: Said Bouchair.

Prime Minister Discusses Aims of New Government

LD0509174993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Speech by Prime Minister Redha Malek on 5 September; place not given; first paragraph is announcer's introduction—recorded]

[Text] Prime Minister Redha Malek has indicated that restoring stability and security for the people and protecting property are two of his government's priorities. He added that ensuring an economic take-off and moving pragmatically towards a market economy are also priorities, in addition to purging the administration and restoring regard for public services.

These remarks, made this afternoon [5 September] by Redha Malek, are the first since the announcement of the new government. Here follows the full statement.

[Malek] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Higher State Council [HCE] has entrusted me with forming and heading our country's government. This honor which the HCE has bestowed on me is as enormous as the mission that awaits me to rectify the current situation. I am fully aware of the heavy responsibilities I have to face. I can tell you that the members of the government whom I have introduced to the HCE do appreciate the reality and the seriousness of the challenge to which we are responding.

Numerous efforts were made and numerous achievements were realized by previous governments, the last of which was the government headed by brother Belaid Abdesselam, who made significant efforts with self-sacrifice, loyalty, and sincere patriotism. We, for our part, will contribute our efforts to the arduous mission to surmount the crisis which is shaking our dear country.

I can say right now that one of the tasks to which we are giving priority in our actions is restoring stability and security for the people and protecting property throughout the country. Everyone will remember that, on the day I was appointed as head of the government, a former prime minister, who had spent his life serving the homeland, died under the bullets of terrorism. He was the late brother Kasdi Merbah, may God bless his soul.

We will continue the fight against terrorism with determination and we stress to all Algerians that the law will be applied in full, with resolve and firmness.

We are aware of the problems which the citizens have with the public administration, be it the central or local administration. These relations, which are sometimes bad, have led the citizens to doubt the state's ability to protect them. The government will pay special attention to reforming the public administration and to improving its structure. We will especially endeavor to protect our administration from the old attitudes which tarnish the reputation of the state and the citizen. We will accord the full ethical value to the significance of public service.

There is another priority for the government. That is, obviously, the program for the economic revival of our country. The economic situation warrants special attention, bravery, and careful thought regarding possible solutions and methods to follow.

The shake-ups and changes witnessed by the world economy today markedly reduce our freedom of action. Additionally, there are internal pressures resulting from an increasing population: an upsurge of social demands and the mounting new needs of our young people. All this requires from us a new vision and renewed aspirations.

The Algeria of the nineties is different from that of the sixties. However, here I would like to explain that we will

disregard any comparison that is not founded on realistic data, or that is characterized by adventurism.

The stages of the economic changes will be explained in due and appropriate course. We will embark on the path toward a market economy in a pragmatic way, while taking into account the characteristics of our society. We will particularly endeavor to control the social expenditure resulting from these changes. The state will be the first guarantor of social justice. The importance which we accord to economic questions must not lead us to neglect the cultural dimension of our development. Very soon the government will put forward the cultural problem for coordinated consideration of the policy which must be applied in this field, in consultation and coordination with those working in this sector and those concerned with cultural issues.

In the field of education we will work to restore the regard for Algerian schools, with emphasis first on the pedagogical aspect, which must encompass all the elements of the educational system in order to improve its quality and output. Finally, I can say that the government will work within a framework of clarity and widespread consultation and that we are convinced that solidarity of efforts, frankness about intentions, and placing the interests of the homeland before all else are the only means of helping to bring our country out of its present unrest.

The task that awaits us is certainly complicated. But the potential available to us is real. We have no choice but to exert every effort and to work. In our view this is the path that will enable us to effectively build a modern, democratic state which takes pride in its glorious past and is preparing a decent future for its children. Peace be upon you.

Egypt

'Arafat Meets With Egyptian, Syrian Minsters

Stopover in Cairo Detailed

NC0509082193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat made a stopover at Cairo International Airport this morning. He was met by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for political affairs, and members of the Palestinian Embassy in Cairo.

After a short stop, 'Arafat is scheduled to leave for Damascus, accompanied by Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO's Political Department; and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO's Information Department.

'Arafat on 'Historic Challenge'

NC0509122393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has stated that he extends his hand to all Palestinian factions without exception so that together they can assume the historic responsibility facing the Palestinian people for the first time since the start of occupation.

In remarks at Cairo Airport following his meeting with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, 'Arafat said that the situation constitutes a historic challenge through which we must stay united so that the Palestinian people can reap their benefits. He added that he reaches out with full amity and fraternity to all factions and that he takes pride in the democratic practice and system within the PLO, in which the majority respects the minority and the minority is committed to the opinion of the majority.

[In a Cairo-datelined item at 1030, Cairo MENA in Arabic reports: "Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat telephoned President Husni Mubarak during his stopover at Cairo Airport to express the Palestinian people's thanks and appreciation for Egypt's position on the Palestinian cause."]

'Arafat noted that the Palestinians are at the threshold of a new era following the agreement reached with the Israelis. 'Arafat stressed that the Arab stand on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is positive from all aspects, adding that he visited Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, Mauritania, Yemen, Sudan, and Egypt and will leave now for Syria and Jordan.

President 'Arafat praised the stand of Jordanian King Husayn, who expressed his support for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. 'Arafat noted that he had sent envoys to the Gulf countries and that he expects positive support and active backing for the Palestinian position from the Gulf leaders.

On his talks in Cairo today, 'Arafat said he had discussed with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa the results of Musa's talks in Israel. The Palestinian leader added: We are at the doorstep of a new era. He pointed out that the agreement reached between Israel and the PLO is a comprehensive one and is not exclusive to Gaza and Jericho alone. Jericho and Gaza represent the start of the implementation of self-rule, he added.

On mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, 'Arafat said that the PLO is fully ready to repeat what the Palestine National Council declared in 1988, when he announced the Palestinian peace initiative, which resulted in the United States' recognition of the PLO and the start of the bilateral dialogue between the two parties.

Asked about the Palestinian consensus and the position of the Palestinian factions on the agreement between the

PLO and Israel, 'Arafat said that the Palestinian leadership had obtained authorization from the Palestine National Council and the PLO Central Council to reach an agreement on the self-rule phase. He added that what has already been reached with Israel is a declaration of principles on self-rule. He added: We have started to present it to the various bodies, including the Fatah Central Council, which has endorsed it, and preparations are under way to present the agreement to the other leaders within the PLO.

On his talks in Damascus today, 'Arafat said he will discuss with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad all the developments, adding that President al-Asad is a dear brother whose opinion we respect and follow. He noted that Jordan's initiative to back the agreement between the PLO and Israel is a constructive initiative that gives backing to the Palestinian position.

Asked about the position of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] on the agreement, 'Arafat said he welcomes Hamas' statement that it will not resort to violence in its opposition of the deal. The Palestinian president added: I repeat my appeal to them and tell them let us put our hands together to proceed toward the Arab and Palestinian future.

[Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic at 1130 GMT on 5 September carries a similar report and adds: " 'Arafat said we are at the doorstep of signing this agreement as soon as possible, but some things obstructing the exchange of letters between Israel and the PLO still remain."

"Asked if the agreement will be signed on 13 September as declared, 'Arafat said that this depends on what we and the Israelis can reach on the remaining points."]

Musa Comments on Meeting With 'Arafat

NC0509130393 Cairo MENA in English 1227 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that his talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today covered the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, coordination of Arab stands regarding the bilateral peace talks, the projected Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles, and the Gaza-Jericho agreement. The Palestinians are coordinating their stands with Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, he said.

The Arabs support the Palestinians' efforts to restore their legitimate rights, Musa asserted. What is going on right now is only the first step on the way to restoring these rights, he added.

'Arafat made a stopover at Cairo International Airport while en route to Damascus for talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

'Arafat Hails Talks With Syrian Leader

NC0609102393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1004 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this afternoon, coming from Damascus, following a one-day visit to Syria during which he met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa welcomed him at Cairo airport.

Following his arrival in Cairo, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said that his talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad were "fraternal, intimate, and commensurate with the level of events."

'Arafat expressed his appreciation of President al-Asad for the understanding he showed and the advice he gave, particularly at this critical juncture, fraught with major developments, of the Palestinian issue and the Middle East peace talks in general.

'Arafat and Musa left the airport for al-Andalus Palace where they will hold talks.

Musa on Accord, Mutual Recognition

NC0609141493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak will receive Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat tomorrow as part of Egyptian-Palestinian consultations to speed up the peace process and overcome the obstacles standing in the way of mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO.

Following his talks with 'Arafat today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that the Palestinian president stressed that there were no problems in the talks that he held with President Hafiz al-Asad. 'Arafat described his meetings with al-Asad as very good.

Musa said that 'Arafat expressed his happiness with these meetings. He added that Egypt is also happy with these meetings. It hopes that Arab action will now focus on supporting the Palestinian decision with a view to reaching a comprehensive settlement. Musa added that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is a first step toward implementing what was agreed on in Madrid.

Musa said the date for the signing of the agreement has been agreed on. This date could be 13 September. Meetings are being held today [as received] to finish the subject of mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO.

Musa said the agreement is a Palestinian-Israeli agreement and will be signed only by the Palestinians and Israelis.

Musa said Egypt is working for a comprehensive settlement on the Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian tracks. This is Egypt's permanent policy.

On Egyptian contacts to remove the obstacles to mutual recognition, Musa said: Contacts are now taking place

between the Palestinians and Israelis. Egypt helps when it is asked to do so and when help is necessary. What is essentially taking place now are Palestinian-Israeli contacts.

On Egypt's efforts to narrow the gap between the two sides regarding the formula submitted by Norway for mutual recognition, Musa said it is better not to discuss the current contacts because they deal with a text that has not yet been agreed on. Asked about the U.S. role in the present phase, Musa said the United States is playing its full role as cosponsor of the peace conference. The United States is carrying out contacts to promote the peace process and overcome obstacles.

On the message he received from the Russian foreign minister, Musa said the letter is within the framework of Russia's role as cosponsor of the peace process and its interest in achieving peace in the region.

Musa will meet with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, this evening.

'Arafat, Musa Hold Second Meeting

NC0609192793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1852 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this evening. The meeting was attended by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. 'Arafat and Musa met earlier today following the Palestinian president's arrival in Cairo.

Musa on 'Arafat's Syria Visit

NC0709063193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0608 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has clarified that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Syria the day before yesterday came in response to President Husni Mubarak's views on the need to make sure all the countries concerned with the peace process know about the essentials and details of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement over Gaza and Jericho.

Musa told AL-AHRAM today that Egypt is trying hard to realize the comprehensive settlement on the various tracks with Israel—the Syrian, Palestinian, and Lebanese.

Asked about the Egyptian effort to remove the obstacles to the mutual recognition declaration between Israel and Palestine, 'Amr Musa said that the main thing happening is contacts between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Egypt is helping based on a request from the sides concerned and only when necessary.

He said the United States is playing its full role as a sponsor of the peace conference by holding contacts to push the peace process forward and overcome any obstacles.

'Arafat on Mutual Recognition

NC0709071693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0609 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has said there is a link between signing the Gaza-Jericho agreement on autonomy and mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO.

In statements to AL-AHRAM today, 'Arafat said: We insist on this link. We also insist on other arrangements.

The Palestinian president said mutual recognition remains the subject of difficult and tough deliberations between the two sides.

In his interview, the Palestinian president said the Palestinians went to the Madrid talks on the basis of establishing autonomy for a transitional period. But, he added: We extracted from the Israeli side a withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, which falls within the framework of the final solution. So, in Gaza and Jericho, at the beginning of the transitional stage, we will implement the final stage on part of our territory. This is the gain.

'Arafat said the election will take place in the ninth month following the signing of the agreement. He said: We insist on international supervision, not only in Gaza and Jericho, but also in the regions where there will be autonomy. He pointed out that Israel approved this.

Asked about the arrangements from the first through the ninth months, the Palestinian president said that two months after signing the agreement, Israel will withdraw from Gaza and Jericho and Palestinian security forces will be deployed in its place. Some points, the crossing points, will be placed under international supervision. The process of the transfer of authority will need two to four months. Then, we continue the process in the other areas. Afterward, we prepare for the election in the ninth month.

The Palestinian president described the Jordanian monarch's stance on the agreement as splendid. He said: I thanked him personally for his splendid, committed position.

On the Lebanese stance, 'Arafat said: I have not met the Lebanese side. I or one of my comrades will meet them to inform them of what will happen.

Asked about convening an Arab summit, the Palestinian president said King Husayn made the call. He stressed the need for Arab consensus so that we can convene the summit, especially with the Gulf crisis having made it difficult to hold such a summit.

Mubarak, 'Arafat Hold Talks

NC0709080393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0749 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—This morning, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in the al-'Urubah Palace, where they held a round of talks.

The session was attended by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

For the Palestinians, the meeting was attended by the Palestinian delegation members accompanying 'Arafat on his visit to Cairo.

'Arafat: Mubarak Efforts 'Instrumental'

NC0709104693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1022 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has praised President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's efforts to settle the Palestinian issue—both his public moves and those that have not been publicized.

In remarks shortly before leaving Cairo today, 'Arafat said: President Mubarak's efforts have been instrumental in our achievements.

'Arafat said his visit to Oman later today is the first part of a tour of Arab Gulf countries. He voiced appreciation for the statement issued by the Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers two days ago, particularly the statement's reference to Jerusalem and its emphasis on a final Palestinian settlement.

Concluding, 'Arafat said contacts are continuing to reach agreement on a proclamation of mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel.

'Arafat Departs Cairo 7 Sep

NC0709101093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0958 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo for Oman at noon following a two-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

He held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa concerning the developments in the peace process and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, saw him off at the airport.

Mubarak on Gaza-Jericho, Election, al-Asad Visit

NC0609053193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is the best step toward peace and a genuine prelude to a comprehensive and just peace, which Egypt has consistently called for in the interest of the peoples of the Middle East without exception. In a statement published in tomorrow's edition of MAYU newspaper, mouthpiece of the National Democratic Party, he said that he will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Cairo soon, noting the continued consultation and coordination with President al-Asad.

Mubarak said that no new law is being conceived to restrict press freedom. He added that he has not and will not prevent freedom of speech, noting that national and party papers publish what they want without any restrictions. He said that a student asked him at a public meeting about reports in certain papers. The student was dissatisfied because certain reports sometimes offend and defame ordinary citizens without any legal evidence. Mubarak clarified that the people should be the judge of their press and that the press should not be subject to sanctions or restrictions. He noted that the law on publication in Egypt contains much less restrictive clauses than most democratic countries of the world, including the United States, Britain, and France.

Mubarak called on all citizens to go to the polls on 4 October and cast their ballots about the election of the president, as they have the final say. He stressed that he respects the people's will. "If the result of the referendum is no, I will say thank you to the people and your decision is above any consideration. If the result is yes, I must shoulder the responsibility, which I cannot relinquish in appreciation of and response to the people's wish."

Mubarak said that Egypt's achievement with the IMF and World Bank is considered the best agreement compared to agreements with other countries. He reasserted that Egypt will not sell the public sector but will reform it and expand participation in its ownership so that the citizens will not bear the burden of losing companies through new taxes.

Russian Foreign Minister Conveys Support for Plan

NC0509091193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0758 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received a message from Andrey Kozyrev, his Russian counterpart, in which Kozyrev voices satisfaction over the recent developments on the Palestinian-Israeli track of the peace talks.

The Russian foreign minister expresses his support for the agreement between the two sides concerning the West Bank and Gaza, saying that it would open the way for tangible progress on the other tracks of the talks.

In his message, Kozyrev calls on Egypt to support the agreement that has been reached and encourage its implementation. He also reiterates Russia's commitment to its position as a cosponsor of the Middle East talks that began in Madrid. The Russian charge d'affaires handed the message to Musa today.

Iran's View of Plan, Cooperation With Israel Criticized

NC0709075293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0623 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has affirmed there is near complete Arab welcoming of the preliminary agreement expected to be signed on handing over the Gaza Strip and Jericho to the PLO and withdrawing the Israeli forces as a first stage to resolving the Palestine issue.

In its comment today, the newspaper said it believes Arab support for the Palestinian side reveals that the Arabs have a great desire to establish peace in the region. They are ready to accept peaceful coexistence with the Israelis if they continue their march toward a just and comprehensive peace with all the parties whose lands they occupy.

The newspaper criticized the Iranian stance declaring its condemnation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. It said Iran continues its cooperation with Israel behind the scenes in various fields.

The paper pointed to the PLO's revelation of the true Iranian goals and role, which have existed for some time. The PLO also expressed its confidence that Arab support alone can foil these Iranian schemes and their ilk.

Fundamentalist Inmates Riot; 48 Policemen Injured

NC0509202493 Paris AFP in English 1957 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, Sept 5 (AFP)—Forty-eight police officers were injured on Sunday [5 September] when Islamic militant inmates rioted in an Egyptian prison, police said.

The riot erupted when police arrived at Abu Za'bal Prison in a northern Cairo suburb and tried to transfer 200 inmates to another prison, police said.

Some 1,300 Islamic militants at the prison ripped out cell bars and threw objects at the police outside the prison building, preventing them from entering and injuring 48 of them, including one seriously.

Security forces retaliated by lobbing tear gas canisters and firing shots into the air.

On August 28 a fight between political and common law prisoners broke out in which three inmates were killed, including a Coptic Christian and Islamic militant. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Regain Control

NC0509212993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2047 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Sep (MENA)—A responsible security source has stated that prison forces accompanied by Central Security forces and forces from the al-Qalyubiyah Security Directorate early this morning raided the Abu Za'bal Prison area to restore discipline and order. He said that the campaign was aimed at clearing contraband in the prison, enforcing law, and confronting the agitators in the Abu Za'bal Prison. The source said that certain terrorist inmates tried to violate law and order and use violence to prevent the forces from performing their duty. The forces acted and succeeded in getting the area under control.

The security forces seized a large number of sharp tools—rods of iron and pipes—which the inmates removed from the prison facilities, along with a large quantity of books on extremist ideology. The campaign left 72 inmates injured and measures are being taken to treat them. Seventeen personnel and three officers sustained slight injuries. The security forces put the prison under complete control and moved 110 extremists to the heavily guarded Turrah Prison. The al-Khankah Prosecution Office has been notified for an investigation.

Sudan

Diplomat Denies Role in World Trade Center Blast

EA0409192093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1640 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Sep (SUNA)—The Sudanese diplomat accused by American media and intelligence organisations of involvement in the bombing of the international trade centre in New York has dismissed such charges as just a campaign to distort the political image of the Sudan.

Sirraj al-Din Hamid, who is a member of the Sudanese mission accredited to the United Nations, in an interview published by the Arabic-language bi-weekly magazine "AL-MULTAGA," said here on Saturday [4 September] that the unfounded charges leveled against him by the American media may also be aimed to serve as a cover to justify adoption of certain political measures against the Sudan.

He went on to say that the American federal authorities' recording of telephone conversations of the members of the Sudanese diplomatic mission, if confirmed, would constitute a dangerous violation of the international diplomatic conventions and norms, including the Vienna Agreement on Diplomatic Relations of 1963.

Meanwhile, Ronald Kobbi, an American defense lawyer for the accused, has maintained that Hamid was only acting in his capacity as counselor at the Sudanese diplomatic mission in New York. The tapes received by the defense lawyers do not carry any conversations involving a Sudanese official, the attorney said. He added that orders by the American administration prohibit him from disclosing the contents of the tapes.

Abu-Salih To Deliver Message on Terrorism Listing

NC0709111093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—A reliable Sudanese diplomatic source has stated that the message that Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih will deliver to President Husni Mubarak tomorrow deals with the U.S. decision to place Sudan on the list of countries harboring terrorism. He will explain Sudan's stance on this decision.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, he said the visit comes as part of the diplomatic and political moves Sudan is making to confront this decision within the framework of Egypt's presidency of the OAU and the role Egypt plays to realize peace in the continent.

The source expressed his confidence that the U.S. administration erred when it made its decision, because it made it without any foundation. He stressed that Sudan categorically rejects being accused of things that ruin its relations with others.

Helicopter Crash Kills Governor, Military Officials

EA0609145293 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, the chief of staff, the minister of state for defense affairs, deputy chiefs of staff, officers, and other members of the People's Armed Forces greatly mourn the martyrs of peace who fell as mujahidin fighting for peace and who spared no effort to preserve the unity of Sudan and its people.

The martyrs are: Police Colonel Bol Reth Kuany, governor of upper Nile State; Ahmad al-Radi Jabir, chairman of the peace committee of the Transitional National Assembly; Fadl al-Sid Abu-Qusaysah, director general of the Peace and Development Foundation; Lieutenant Colonel Kamal 'Ali Mukhtar; Musa 'Ali Sulayman [a provincial commissioner]; Air Force Captain Muhammad Ahmad Khayr; Air Force Captain al-Walid 'Abd-al-Salam al-Mahjub; and Hadi Mansur [a television cameraman].

They were martyred on Sunday, 5 September 1993, while carrying out their national duty towards achieving peace in the Arikona area of northern Upper Nile State, as the result of a technical fault which led to the crash of the helicopter in which they were travelling. [passage omitted]

GCC Ministerial Council Concludes 48th Session

UAE Foreign Minister Gives Address

LD0509204093 Riyadh SPA in English 1926 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Riyadh, Sept 5, SPA—The GCC's [Gulf Cooperation Council's] ministerial council held its second working-session this evening.

The council, which groups the foreign ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Oman started its 48 session at the headquarters of the GCC's general secretariat here early in the day.

Addressing the first session, Rashid al-Na'imi, the UAE's foreign minister thanked the government of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz for the excellent accommodation and hospitality awarded for the participants.

"We are holding this meeting amid great hopes and aspirations being felt by the peoples of the Gulf region on the establishment of peace and stability," al-Na'imi said and added that the Iraqi regime has remained to be the major threat of peace and security in the region as it still detaining the Kuwaiti captives and practicing provocative acts against the Kuwaiti security forces across the borders.

He also expressed anxiety on the continuous Iranian claims over the sovereignty of the Tunb greater and smaller islands and Abu Musa island which are belonging to the United Arab Emirates. He refuted the Iranian charges that the three islands are indivisible part of the Iranian territories and that the dispute with UAE over them is is just a minor one.

The UAE's foreign minister expressed the hope that Iran would agree to negotiate the issue of the islands to achieve a final solution that might enable a peaceful return of the three islands sovereignty to the United Arab Emirates. He also advised Iran to pursue a rational and good-will policy and respect attitudes of good neighbourhood and non interference in the domestic affairs of other countries. He urged Iran to show keen interest in establishing fraternal cooperation with the states of the region.

Citing the latest developments of the Middle East peace process, al-Na'imi expressed hope that the recent developments would realise the legitimate rights of the Arabs and the Palestinians for which they struggled and offered sacrifices for a long time.

On behalf of the GCC member states, al-Na'imi reiterated the full backing of the GCC for the peace process but added that the member states feel that more backing should be made and that the unification and coordination of positions is the best mean for the restoration of the Arab territories and the rights of the Palestinian people.

He also expressed hope that peace and stability would be established in Bosnia-Herzegovina where innocent Muslims are suffering from a nefarious and vicious massacres, ethnic clearing and destruction. He condemned the proposed plan for dividing the Bosnian Republic into three independent states as a dedication of the dangerous situation existing over there. He enumerated the moral and material assistance rendered by the GCC states to the Bosnian Muslims.

"The GCC states also follow with much concern what is going on in Somalia where situation has been escalated due to the continuous clashes between the Somali parties and the U.N. peace-keeping troops which left many civilian dead and hinder the relief and humanitarian efforts of the United Nations," he said.

Al-Na'imi said the agenda of the meeting includes many military, economic and legal items and expressed hope that the meeting would come out with a successful end.

Afterwards, the meeting turned into a behind-door session.

Council Welcomes PLO-Israel Accord

LD0509235693 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2250 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Sep (SPA)—Their Highnesses and Excellencies the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] foreign ministers ended their second working meeting this evening within the framework of the 48th session of the GCC Ministerial Council. The following statement was released by the Council:

On the Palestinian-Israeli agreement:

The GCC Ministerial Council of the Arabian Gulf states is following with great interest the developments in the peace process in the Middle East in light of the resumption of the 11th round of bilateral negotiations and the Palestinian-Israeli path reaching a new turning point as a result of the direct talks between the PLO and Israel.

The council welcomes the draft agreement reached between the two sides as a first step on the way to arriving at a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace, the realization of the complete Isareli withdrawal from occupied Arab areas, particularly holy Jerusalem, ensuring the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, and the establishment of firm foundations to safeguard security and stability in the Middle East.

Council Issues Statement

LD0609223593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Their excellencies the foreign ministers of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states have ended their 48th council session. This afternoon they

held their final meeting in the council's general secretariat headquarters in Riyadh.

At the end of the closing meeting, a press statement was issued in which the council expressed its sincere congratulations to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and the gentle Saudi people on the occasion of the establishment of the blessed Shura Council in the Saudi Kingdom and the appointment of Shura members. The council wished every success to this historic step, expressing the hope that it would contribute to bolstering the path of the total renaissance that the Kingdom is experiencing in all fields.

The ministerial council studied regional and international developments and the situation in the region in light of the Iraqi regime's continuous policy of procrastination in implementing Security Council resolutions related to his aggression against Kuwait. The council condemned the Iraqi regime for its behavior—stalling, maneuvering, and threatening—and for violating ceasefire conditions specified by Security Council Resolution 687, for continuing reiterating his expansionist claims against Kuwait, indicating that he would repeat the invasion, for rejecting Security Council Resolution 833 outlining border demarcations between Kuwait and Iraq, and for continuing to threaten security and stability in the region. The council confirmed its full support for Kuwait to embody the principle of collective security.

The council also studied developments in its relation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and renewed its firm position of support for the United Arab Emirates, confirming its sovereignty over its three islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunbs.

The ministerial council followed with extreme interest developments in the Middle East peace process. It expressed its satisfaction at the resumption of the 11th round of bilateral negotiations and confirmed what was said in its statement of 5 September which welcomed the draft agreement reached between the PLO and Israel as a first step toward a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution for the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the principle of exchanging land for peace.

The council examined the situation in Somalia and expressed its deep regret and anxiety at the continuation of the deteriorating security conditions there. The council confirmed its concern for the maintenance of Somalia's unity and sovereignty, the safety of its land, and its political independence. It stressed that the GCC states are standing beside Somalia in its painful ordeal.

The council expressed its extreme anxiety and indignation at the continuation of the great human suffering of the people of the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The ministerial council urged the Security Council and the EC to take all steps to ensure that aggression is not rewarded and legitimacy is not accorded to its results and side effects. The council also called on the Security Council to carry out all necessary and immediate procedures to enable the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to practise the right of self-defense in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter, and to lift the arms embargo imposed on it.

The council also reviewed the most important economic issues which the ministerial and technical committees discussed and which emerged since its last session. These include the efforts to unify the customs tariff and the stages of the debates of the technical committees prior to submitting their final recommendations in this regard to the coming session of the Supreme Council, which will be held in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom.

The council also reviewed developments in the negotiations and meetings between the GCC states and the EEC in particular, in light of the results of the joint ministerial meeting which was held in Brussels on 11 May and the meeting that was held by the joint committee on cooperation between the two sides on 16 July in Brussels on issues of energy and the environment. The council took note of this.

Kuwait

Al-Hariri, 'Abd-al-Majid Arrive 6 Sep

LD0609203293 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Excerpts] At 1700 this evening His Excellency Rafiq al-Hariri, prime minister of the fraternal Republic of Lebanon, accompanied by His Excellency Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League secretary general, arrived in Kuwait on a working visit that will last two days. [passage omitted]

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received Mr. al-Hariri and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid in his office at Bayan Palace at 1815 this evening. Official talks were held, attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan, second deputy prime minister and minister of finance and planning; Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Sulayman al- Fawzan, minister of public health and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs; Dr. 'Abdallah Rashid al-Hajiri, minister of trade and industry and head of the escorting team; and Ahmad Ghayth 'Abdallah, Kuwaiti ambassador to Lebanon. The meeting was also attended by senior members of the delegation accompanying the honorable guest, as well as Dr. Muhammad 'Isa, Lebanese ambassador to Kuwait, and Ambassador Ahmad 'Adil, chief of the Arab League secretary general's office.

The talks focused on the recent developments in the Lebanese and Arab arenas and the efforts of Arab participation in the reconstruction of Lebanon in implementation of the Arab League Council's resolutions.

Trial of Kuwaiti, 11 Iraqis To Resume 11 Sep

NC0509101093 Paris AFP in English 0925 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, Sept 5 (AFP)—Eleven Iraqis and a Kuwaiti face possible death sentences when the trial resumes here next Saturday [11 September] of 14 people accused of plotting to assassinate former U.S. president George Bush.

Prosecutor Badr Massad requested the death penalties as the trial, which opened June 5, resumed on Saturday. The state security court ordered a recess until September 11.

Massad also called for 10-year prison terms for two other people implicated in the alleged plot to carry out a car-bomb attack on Bush, at the orders of the Iraqi intelligence services, during a visit to Kuwait in April.

The court also heard testimony Saturday from the seven state-appointed defence lawyers. [passage omitted]

Algiers Radio Reports Executions

LD0509084093

[Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 0900 GMT on 5 September carries as part of its regular news bulletin the following report, which is texted:

"In Kuwait this morning, 11 Iraqis and one Kuwaiti have been executed on the charge of planning to assassinate former American President George Bush last April in Kuwait."

Prime Minister Addresses National Assembly on Tasks

LD0709131593 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1156 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Address by Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah at the final meeting of the first session of the seventh legislative chapter of the National Assembly—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The government recalls with appreciation the stances adopted by your esteemed assembly in cooperation with the government and in supporting it in all its political endeavors, aimed at bolstering the bonds of cohesion between the State of Kuwait and its sister countries—the Gulf states and the Arab and Islamic states, and also the friendly states that condemned the aggression against Kuwait and supported it during its tribulations, and thus set the most glorious examples in their true feelings vis-a-vis our just cause. They deserve all our thanks and gratitude. Our wounds are still painful and bitter as a result of the Iraqi stab of treachery and aggression, the effects of which are still visible to us and still feel in our hearts, a matter which requires that we all—assembly and government—should work in our foreign policy on the bases of fixed principles, stemming from the fact that Kuwait is Arab and from our tolerant Islamic faith, and in full awareness of the new developments of international politics now that God Almighty has been generous and kind in assisting us to liberate our dear homeland from the sinful invasion.

All this should be done within a framework of total preservation of Kuwait's sovereignty and the independence of its will. Your constructive cooperation with your brothers—members of the government—led to positive results in the field of national security by the establishment of a security system with the fraternal and friendly states—a system that protects our dear country's independence and sovereignty, and guarantees its security and stability.

Brother members of the Assembly: Ahead of us all lay hard work and gigantic responsibilities. There are many dark clouds still surrounding the region. All this requires us to be more vigilant and cautious, as well as engaging in more serious constructive cooperation; we should use all our energies and capabilities to confront the challenges to which our dear homeland is being subjected. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Receives Visiting French Defense Minister

LD0609001793 Riyadh SPA in English 2245 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 5 Sep (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received His Excellency Francois Leotard, French defense minister, and his accompanying delegation at his office in al-Salam Palace today. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Lebanon's al-Hariri, Arab League Chief Pay Visit

Shaykh Zayid Pledges Aid for Lebanon

NC0609063493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid resumed their Arab tour yesterday. Before leaving for Abu Dhabi yesterday, Prime Minister al-Hariri conferred with President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the latest developments, particularly the peace negotiations and the Israeli-Palestinian Gaza-Jericho agreement. Al-Hariri and 'Abd-al-Majid will resume their talks in Abu Dhabi today following talks they held with United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan yesterday. Speaking after the meeting, Shaykh Zayid said:

[Begin recording] [Zayid] The talks were successful. Whatever Lebanon and his excellency the president demand, we are ready. It is our duty to provide everything that Lebanon needs.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are you satisfied with the Arab solidarity in support of Lebanon, or is there need for change?

[Zayid] How?

[Correspondent] To strengthen this solidarity to assist it.

[Zayid] Why not? Why shouldn't we be satisfied? We will not be satisfied if the Arabs do not assist Lebanon and others like Lebanon. We would not be pleased by this. But this causes us satisfaction and pleasure.

[Correspondent] Shaykh Zayid, what do you think about the developments taking place concerning the negotiations in the region, the Palestinian agreement that took place?

[Zayid] The Palestinians know best what is in their interests. We bless whatever pleases and is in the interest of Palestine.

[Al-Hariri] The meeting with his highness the shaykh was extremely cordial. We listened to his highness's advice and views on what is happening in the region. He always has sound views and advice that one is happy to hear. Regarding the Lebanese issue, we explained the situation to him. He was very clear and very understanding. He pledged the UAE's support for Lebanon and undertook to pay the UAE's share in full. [passage omitted] [end recording] [Passage omitted] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent has learned that the talks in the first meeting dealt with developments in the area, the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and its repercussions, and the situation in southern Lebanon. It has also been learned that Shaykh Zayid and the UAE officials reaffirmed their commitment to pay the UAE's share of the Arab aid to Lebanon, which is $75 million. The necessary arrangements will be made to transfer the money to Lebanon.

Al-Hariri on PLO-Israeli Agreement

JN0609142093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Sep (WAKH)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has said the current phase in the Middle East is a historic one, noting that all U.S. assurances to the regional states underline concern for peace in the Middle East.

During a meeting with Lebanese expatriates in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], al-Hariri also stressed Lebanon's concern for peace, provided Lebanon's dignity is preserved and the occupied territories in the south are liberated.

Regarding the Palestinian-Israeli agreement over Gaza and Jericho, al-Hariri explained that the Palestinians reached this agreement without informing Lebanon, Syria, or Jordan. He stressed that coordination with all parties concerned will be in the Palestinians' interest.

He stressed that there can be no peace in the Middle East without Syria and Lebanon. He, however, expected things to take a more positive turn in the light of U.S. assurances underlining concern for the establishment of peace. Al-Hariri explained that the peace process needs some time, but is on the right track.

He said the Arab states are divided between support and opposition but there is no absolute opposition because a new development is emerging everyday.

Al-Hariri stressed the need to avoid hasty stands against the agreement, adding that he hopes the agreement will reflect positively on Lebanon.

Al-Hariri also spoke about his government's program to rebuild Lebanon. He said many of the projects have already started.

He stressed that the recent Israeli attacks against Lebanon have shown the United States the need for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and said the Israelis have begun to speak about withdrawal from Lebanon for the first time. He urged the Lebanese expatriates to help rebuild their country and investment in new projects.

Rafiq al-Hariri praised his talks with UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and said his excellency stressed the UAE's support for Lebanon.

'Secret Contacts' With Israel Denied

JN0609161393 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Beirut [as received], 6 Sep (WAKH)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has said his country hopes it will reach a solution leading to the liberation of south Lebanon and preserving Lebanon's dignity, independence, and sovereignty over all its territory.

In a statement to the Emirates news agency, al-Hariri stressed that if these conditions are met, peace can be achieved. He noted that Lebanon has entered the peace process with the aim of liberating its territory.

The Lebanese prime minister denied any secret contacts with Israel to reach an agreement. He said reports on this subject are totally unfounded. He explained that the only negotiations that Lebanon is conducting are the declared Washington talks sponsored by the United States and Russia.

He said he hopes the peace process will achieve its objectives, stressing that Lebanon has an interest in peace and will benefit from this peace more than anybody else, despite the fact that it will make it face new challenges.

He stressed that the ball is now in the Israeli court, and said: Israel is the one occupying our territory, and not the opposite.

Regarding Lebanon's view of the efforts exerted by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the United Arab Emirates [UAE] president, to achieve Arab solidarity, al-Hariri stressed that Lebanon is following with satisfaction these efforts and welcomes them.

Asked about reports that Lebanon has reservations on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement over Gaza and Jericho, al-Hariri said the word "reservations" is inaccurate. He said: The Palestinians have their own constitutional institutions that make the decisions they choose and Lebanon will not be an obstacle.

He did, however, note that the Palestinians have not consulted with Lebanon over the agreement nor have they informed the cordon states' foreign ministers. He added: Lebanon considers itself a supporter of the Palestine question and we could have helped them.

Al-Hariri noted that his current Arab tour has achieved its objectives, and said all the countries he has visited are committed to do their share as decided by the Arab foreign ministers, despite the limited resources of certain states. He said certain countries have pledged to pay their share in cash or from their national products to help the Army, the internal security forces, or those harmed by the recent Israeli attacks.

Al-Hariri touched on his talks with His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. He noted that the talks dealt with the Middle East, the Palestinian-Israeli agreement over Gaza and Jericho, and the UAE's contribution to the reconstruction of south Lebanon in implementation of the decision made by the Arab foreign ministers in their recent Damascus meeting.

He said that Shaykh Zayid has pledged to transfer the UAE's share of this aid, stressing that his highness has underlined his personal support to Lebanon and the Lebanese peace march.

Al-Hariri, 'Abd-al-Majid Depart

JN0609154093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1410 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Sep (WAKH)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left Abu Dhabi today for Kuwait following a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

During his visit, Dr. al-Hariri held talks with His Highness President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The talks dealt with developments and reconstruction efforts in Lebanon, as well as means to enhance relations between the two countries.

President, UK's Hurd Discuss Mideast Peace

JN0709113993 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates president, today received Douglas Hurd, UK secretary of state for foreign & commonwealth affairs, who is currently on a visit to our country.

The two sides reviewed the current situation in the region, efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East, the proposed peace agreement between the PLO and Israel, relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, and means of promoting them. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Bomb Goes Off in Prime Minister's Residence 4 Sep

JN0509081193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Sanaa, 5 Sep (INA)—A security source at the Yemeni Interior Ministry has stated that a bomb went off in the house of Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas last night. The explosion caused no damage inside the house.

In a statement broadcast over the Yemeni Television during its midnight newscast last night, the source affirmed that the security authorities hurried to the scene of the explosion and surrounded the scene of the incident.

The source indicated that the incident was aimed at disturbing the current state of security and stability in the country.

The source urged citizens to exercise caution and vigilance to confront such criminal actions and track down their perpetrators. The source did not identify the perpetrators of the explosion.

It is noteworthy to mention that three bombs were thrown at the house of al-'Attas at the beginning of last year.

Saddam Appoints New Cabinet, Advisers, Baghdad Mayor

New Cabinet Appointed

JN0509150193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1408 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq.

Republican Decree No. 186.

In accordance with Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

1. The prime minister, the deputy prime minister, and the ministers shall be relieved of their posts.
2. Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir shall be appointed prime minister and acting finance minister.
3. Tariq 'Aziz shall be appointed deputy prime minister.
4. Those whose names are listed as follows shall be appointed to the ministerial posts mentioned opposite their names:
a. Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, minister of defense.
b. Samal Majid Faraj, minister of planning.
c. Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Khalil Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs.
d. Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade.
e. Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals.
f. Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of health.
g. Muhammad Sa'id Kazim al-Sahhaf, minister of foreign affairs.
h. Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information.
i. Shabib Lazim al-Maliki, minister of justice.
j. Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz, minister of education.
k. Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad, minister of housing and reconstruction.
l. Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, minister of interior.
m. Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur, minister of higher education and scientific research.
n. Arshad Muhammad Ahmad Muhammad al-Zibari, minister of state.
o. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of labor and social affairs.
p. Safa' Hadi Jawad, minister of oil.
q. Dr. Bashir 'Alwan Hammadi, minister of agriculture.
r. Nizar Jum'ah 'Ali al-Qasir, minister of irrigation.
s. Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad Khalil, minister of transport and communications.
t. Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, minister of awqaf and religious affairs.
u. 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Umar Mirza al-Atrushi, minister of state.

The prime minister and ministers shall implement this decree.

Written in Baghdad on 19 Rabi' al-Awwal, 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 5 September 1993.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

Presidential Advisers Appointed

JN0509150793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1413 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq.

Republican Decree No. 187.

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph E of Article 58 of the Constitution, we have decreed the following:

1. 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini shall be appointed adviser to the president with his current salary and with a minister's allowances.

2. The following people shall be appointed advisers at the Presidency with their current salaries and allowances:
a. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud 'Abdallah al-Sabbagh
b. 'Abdallah Fadil 'Abbas
c. Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti
d. 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di

The competent authorities shall implement this decree.

Written in Baghdad on 19 Rabi' al-Awwal 1914 Hegira, corresponding to 5 September 1993.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

New Baghdad Mayor Appointed

JN0509151493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1417 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq.

Republican Decree No. 188.

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph E of Article No. 58 of the Constitution, we have decreed the following:

1. Tahir Muhammad Hassun, adviser at the Presidency, shall be appointed mayor of Baghdad.

The competent authorities shall implement this decree.

Written in Baghdad on 19 Rabi' al-Awwal 1914 Hegira, corresponding to 5 September 1993.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic

Saddam Lauds Efforts of Ministers

JN0509170193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has praised Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi's efforts during his term as prime minister under very difficult circumstances. His excellency also praised the efforts of the former ministers who do not occupy ministerial posts in the current cabinet but have been appointed advisers at the Presidency.

Each one, his excellency added, exerted every effort under the banner of God is great and under the leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

Cabinet Transfer Ceremonies Detailed

JN0609192893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] A ceremony for the transfer of responsibilities between the outgoing prime minister and the new prime minister was held at the Prime Ministry this morning. Former Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi received new Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir. Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi congratulated the new prime minister on the assumption of his new post, calling on Almighty God to grant him success in carrying out his tasks to serve our great people under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi said: It is a great honor for me to receive the appreciation of the leader, may God preserve him. I consider this appreciation a medal of pride from his excellency to me, to my family, to my tribe, and to all the good people.

Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir thanked Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, member of the Revolution Command Council, for his congratulations, wishes, and cordial feelings that he received. He affirmed that the march of construction and jihad will continue in light of leader President Saddam Husayn's instructions in the service of the people, homeland, and leader. The prime minister said that he will become an honest arm in the work to build the great Iraq.

Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi was then seen off by Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, the prime minister; Hamid Salih al-Rawi, the chairman of the Prime Ministry secretariat; and the Prime Ministry directors general and employees.

Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan assumed his responsibilities today as the minister of industry and minerals. Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan was received at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals by Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, the former minister of industry and minerals and now adviser at the Presidential Office; 'Adnan 'Abd-al-Majid and Muhannad 'Abd-al- Majid, under secretaries of the ministry; and a number of the ministry's directors general. The hand-over ceremony was attended by a number of officials at the ministry.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim also assumed his responsibilities as the minister of labor and social affairs from Umid Midhat Mubarak, the health minister and acting labor and social affairs minister. Umid Midhat Mubarak presented a detailed explanation on the work and the structure of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, as well as the nature of the services rendered to the citizens as this ministry is in a direct contact with all the sectors of society.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim noted the importance of converging all efforts and devoting all potentials to serve our militant people under the banner of leader President Saddam Husayn. The hand-over ceremony was attended by the directors general at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Nizar Jum'ah 'Ali al-Qasir assumed his new responsibilities as the minister of irrigation from 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh, now adviser at the Presidential Office, at the Ministry of Irrigation. Nizar Jum'ah 'Ali al-Qasir said that leader President Saddam Husayn's instructions to the irrigation sector will top the tasks that will be carried out by the ministry. He added that the current stage will see more creative national work in the irrigation projects to serve great Iraq. The hand-over ceremony was attended by the senior under secretary at the Ministry of Irrigation.

Dr. Bashir 'Alwan Hammadi assumed his responsibilities as the minister of agriculture from 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh at the Ministry of Agriculture. The minister noted the importance of agricultural activities in Iraq in order to make food available and to break the unjust blockade imposed on our militant country. He said the workers in the agricultural sector are faithful soldiers in the service of great Iraq under the wise leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn. The hand-over ceremony was attended by officials at the ministry.

Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad Khalil assumed his responsibilities as minister of transport and communications. He was received by 'Abd- al-Sattar Ahmad al-Ma'ini, now adviser to the president of the republic. He welcomed the new minister, wishing him success in his new mission to continue the march of construction and jihad with high and continued determination in the service of great Iraq under the wise and great leadership of the symbol of the Iraqis' pride, leader President Saddam Husayn. The hand-over ceremony was attended by officials at the ministry.

Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad assumed his responsibilities at the Oil Ministry. He was received by Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti, now adviser at the Presidential Office. The hand-over ceremony was attended by officials at the Ministry. Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih also assumed his responsibilities this morning as the minister of awqaf and religious affairs. A ceremony was

held on this occasion at the ministry. It was attended by 'Abdallah Fadil 'Abbas, former minister of awqaf and religious affairs and now adviser at the Presidential Office, who reviewed to the new minister the tasks and nature of work at the ministry, its various activities, and organizational structures.

Saddam Addresses New Cabinet

JN0609074693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] In the presence of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, prime minister and acting finance minister, and the other cabinet ministers were sworn in on the occasion of their appointment to their new posts.

After the cabinet took the constitutional oath, leader President Saddam Husayn made a comprehensive speech, in which he displayed the methods of action and objectives of the Council of Ministers and ministers, each with respect to his ministry.

His excellency said: Our course is guided by the Ba'th principles—the principles of our people and the Arab nation at large. The message that was conveyed to you and to our great people on 12 August 1992 continues to constitute the most important guide of the Council of Ministers' duties. This is because that message outlines the path for economization, which leads to better quality, larger quantities, and less costs in less time. As we said on more than one occasion, a minister is not required to theoretically comprehend the requirements of a given phase. Rather, he is required to lead planned action and invent and implement methods of action to enhance citizens' steadfastness, reduce their burdens, and protect them against exploiters and parasites.

His excellency affirmed: According to general standards, some matters may seem trivial to you. However, they are essential and necessary under certain circumstances and are directly connected to people's lives. Through unconventional field studies, such matters can lead to the achievement of major results which would elevate people's burdens.

His Excellency said: Listen to citizens' complaints and proposals and deal with them conscientiously. Then, you will discover that such complaints and proposals will lead you to methods and tactics which you cannot discover through traditional administrative methods.

His excellency explained: The Council of Ministers should discuss every specific and every case which would lead to easing citizens' burdens. After genuine, field studies, and after a real mental effort, the Council of Ministers should determine the methods that it will follow in this regard. This is because dealing with each specific burden suffered by the people, be it with respect to the availability of food, medicine, agricultural and industrial products, or transport and communications, directly or indirectly affects citizens' lives and means of living. Is there currently a topic on the agenda of the Council of Ministers more important than citizens' lives, security, and means of living? This is your task in terms of mental effort, action, plans, programs, and follow-up. You must live it daily while at work, at home, and even when you are saying prayers, eating, drinking, and having a bath. Nothing is more important now than serving the people, easing their burdens, preventing parasitical brokers from exploiting them, and chasing those who tamper with the funds of the people and the homeland. It has become clear to enemies and friends alike that Iraq is capable of reconstruction. However, this is not enough. We all have yet untapped energies and capabilities. When we activate them, you will find that performance has improved and better results have been achieved through mental and physical effort.

His excellency said: At every ministry and at every department, there must be models from which others can learn.

Concluding his speech, his excellency said: We must note that the former prime minister and former ministers have worked hard. May God Almighty reward them for their work, wherever and whenever they honestly and intentionally worked to serve the people.

Afterward, Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir said: What we heard from your excellency today sets the real path for progress and advancement. We pray to God Almighty to help us shoulder our responsibilities in a manner that satisfies God and meets your excellency's hopes. The contents of your excellency's message of 12 August 1992 are clear. Today, your excellency honored us with a great, solemn message which has brightly illuminated the road ahead of us. We pray to God Almighty to help us all to be worthy of this trust and to continue work under your excellency's course and instructions, God willing.

INA Profiles New Cabinet Ministers

JN0609133393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2110 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Sep (INA)—The following is a profile of the new Iraqi cabinet ministers:

Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir was born in Samarra' in 1941. He completed elementary, intermediate, and high school in its schools, and graduated from the law school in 1964. In 1968, he was appointed director at the Revolution Command Council [RCC]. He was appointed director general of the youth department in 1969 and has held several posts at the Foreign Ministry. He has also been Iraq's ambassador to several countries. In 1980, he was appointed Foreign Ministry under secretary. In 1982, he was appointed adviser to the presidency. He was appointed minister of youth on 28 June 1982 and on 31 December 1983, he became head of the president's office and RCC secretary. Khudayyir became foreign minister on 22 March 1991. On 30 July 1992, he was relieved of his post as a foreign minister

and appointed minister of finance. On 5 September 1993, he was appointed prime minister and acting finance minister.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, was born in Baghdad in 1943. He finished his elementary education in al-Karkh in 1955 and completed intermediate school in al-Ju'ayfir in 1958. He graduated from the elementary teachers' institute in 1959, completed his college years in the al-Mustansiriyah University in 1967, and obtained his masters and PhD degrees from Baghdad University, Faculty of Letters in 1978. He has held several posts, including the assistant secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, and dean of the Islamic Sciences College. He was awarded the party badge in 1968. He was also awarded the High Order of Merit. A republican decree appointed him minister of awqaf and religious affairs on 19 Rabi' al-Awwal 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 5 September 1993.

'Abd-al-Wahhab Mirza al-Atrushi, minister of state, was born in al-Shaykhan District in 1936. He completed intermediate school in 1956, graduated from the Shari'ah College in 1960, and obtained a Bachelor Degree in Law from Baghdad University. He has held several posts, including the governor of Irbil, al-Anbar, and Dahuk. His last post was under secretary of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Al-Atrushi is married and has five children. A republican decree appointed him minister of state on 19 Rabi' al-Awwal 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 5 September 1993.

Dr. Bashir 'Alwan Hammadi, minister of agriculture, was born in Baghdad in 1947. He completed his elementary education in the al-Ju'ayfir school in 1960, and intermediate school in al-Mahmudiyah High School in 1965. Hammadi graduated from the Baghdad University in 1970 and obtained a PhD in crop production from the University of Nebraska in the United States in 1977. He worked at Baghdad University as a professor and later as an assistant professor from 1977 to 1982. He was also cultural adviser at the Iraqi embassy in Italy and Iraq's acting representative to the FAO [UN Food and Agriculture Organization]. Hammadi assumed the post of the director general at the president's office from 1992 to 1993. He is married and has three children. He was awarded the medal of valor and the High Order of Merit in the Mother of Battles. He was also awarded the party badge in 1966. A republican decree appointed him minister of agriculture on 19 Rabi' al-Awwal 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 5 September 1993.

Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad, minister of oil, was born in the city of al-Nu'maniyah, Wasit in 1946. He completed his elementary education in al-Nu'maniyah in 1953, intermediate school in al-Nu'maniyah in 1956, preparatory school in al-Najaf in 1964, and college at the Technology University in 1970. Jawad obtained a PhD from the Leon University in France in 1978. He assumed several government posts from 1970 to 1993. He is married and has three children. Jawad was twice awarded the al-Rafidayn Medal of the third class, the Higher Order of Merit twice, and a medal of valor. A republican decree appointed him minister of oil on 19 Rabi' al-Awwal 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 5 September 1993.

Ahmad Murtada Ahmad, minister of transport and communications, was born in the city of al-Hindiyah in 1947. He completed elementary school in 1958, intermediate school in 1961, and preparatory school in 1963. He graduated from the Baghdad University, Faculty of Engineering—mechanical engineering section. Jawad obtained a masters degree from the University of Manchester in 1981, and a PhD from Bradford University in 1984. He worked in several government departments. He is married and has four children. He was awarded the al-Rafidayn Medal of the third class, two medals of valor, and the Higher Order of Merit. He is a holder of war badge. A republican decree appointed him minister of transport and communications on 19 Rabi' al-Awwal 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 5 September 1993.

Nizar Jum'ah 'Ali al-Qasir, minister of irrigation, was born in the city of 'Anah in 1936. He completed elementary, intermediate, and high school in al-Karkh in 1953. Al-Qasir graduated from the University of California in 1960. He Holds a Bachelors Degree in mechanical engineering. He has held several government posts, the last of which was mayor of Baghdad. He was also awarded the al-Rafidayn Medal of the third class, two medals of valor, and the Higher Order of Merit. A republican decree appointed him minister of irrigation on 19 Rabi' al-Awwal 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 5 September 1993.

Defecting Ambassadors Comment on Motives, Goals

NC0509080093 London MBC Television in Arabic 1607 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Interview with defecting former Ambassadors to Canada and Tunisia, Hisham al-Shawi and Hamid al-Juburi respectively, in London by MBC correspondent Tawfiq Gazoulit; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Gazoulit] You announced during the news conference you held here in London that you are joining the Iraqi opposition. What are the reasons and motives behind this decision? To start off, I address the question to you.

[Al-Juburi] As I have said on other occasions, I have been mulling over this decision for some time, not a short period of time, since I saw, as every other Iraqi, the state my country reached: the total destruction; the Arab, international, and regional isolation; and the suffering of the people in Iraq. I do not believe the true image of this suffering is clear in the minds of the world. Even the Arab world is not really aware of the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Therefore, my decision was final to end my relations with the regime in any way and try, in one way or another, in

cooperation with my brothers the other Iraqis to work toward a better future for our country and people.

[Gazoulit] What about you, Ambassador al-Shawi? What led you to this decision—a decision some considered surprising?

[Al-Shawi] It was not at all surprising. The story is a long one, and the nature of the regime in Iraq is very well known. By virtue of our positions, we do not claim to know everything, but we know enough and we can follow up on things. The state of things, such as negligence, oppression, misery, and absence of responsibility, reached a climax after the invasion of Kuwait. I said in my speech at the beginning that perhaps, like a passing dream—I said perhaps because this is a catastrophe that has no precedent—perhaps the regime would return to its senses and attempt to rectify matters. Soon, as I said, this passing dream dispersed. We started—and when I use the plural I mean thousands of free and valiant Iraqis—to try to work from within the system. We recently realized that this method, despite the huge sacrifices some of our Iraqi brothers have made, did not accomplish anything. The regime continues its course of negligence and oppression. The situation in Iraq continues to worsen. I reached the conviction that we needed to confront and face the situation and announce our opposition so that we could finalize the stand and realize the goal we aspire to. This goal is to topple this regime of terrorism and oppression in Iraq.

You referred to the opposition and our cooperation with it; this is an essential matter. When we made this decision—I have no doubt that this applies to my colleague also, but I am talking for myself here—we were not looking for good health, safety, or comfort. Definitely, when we made this decision, I wanted to confront the regime and declare my opposition to it, in addition to taking action in this regard. When abroad, we can only work together with the opposition. We will do so with great loyalty, especially with the Unified Iraqi National Congress and the rest of the groups in Britain and elsewhere in the future, if that is possible. In addition, we will have contacts with our brothers and colleagues inside Iraq. We will realize our goals, God willing.

[Gazoulit] The announcement on joining the Iraqi opposition was made by both of you simultaneously. This indicates previous coordination. Can you explain this?

[Al-Shawi] I have been asked this question, and I have answered it. However, I will repeat the answer. I am proud and honored to say that my friendship with Hamdi al-Juburi goes back 40 years, since we were in secondary school. We attended the American University together. Our friendship has not been interrupted. Due to our friendship, the official posts we assumed, and our common principles and goals—which is not new—it was natural for us to reach the same decision and even to meet in the same country.

[Gazoulit] Ambassador al-Juburi, you are one of the contemporary Iraqi strugglers. You assumed ministerial positions before joining the Iraqi diplomatic corps seven years ago. What was your direct reaction when you learned of Iraq's decision to invade Kuwait and annex it to Iraq?

[Al-Juburi] I absolutely did not expect any Arab state to commit aggression against another. This is true. In spite of the many hints that preceded 2 August 1990, I could not perceive of one Arab state attacking another, regardless of the motives. There were undoubtedly many differences. However, inter-Arab differences can be resolved through dialogue within the framework of the Arab League, through direct contacts, or through the good offices of fraternal Arab states. Differences are not new to the Arab world; there are differences all over the Arab world, from east to west. No two neighboring Arab states are spared such problems. This is natural. We hope this will not always be the case, but this is the real situation. There are many approaches to resolving such problems. The direct military aggression against a fraternal Arab states was a surprise, or rather a great shock to me personally.

[Gazoulit] Mr. al-Shawi, you said in your statement to the media in London that you were against the decision to invade Kuwait from the beginning. How could you reconcile your principled stand against the invasion and your position as your country's ambassador who officially defended its stance?

[Al-Shawi] First of all, I would like to confirm what my colleague has said about the aggression against Kuwait. I absolutely did not expect it. I was shocked. I knew it was the beginning of a great catastrophe. When the aggression took place, my position was well known both in my private gatherings and my official conduct. I was candid with my Arab and non-Arab friends. As to my official stance, I acted within the limits of my duty as an Iraqi and an Arab. I do not believe I ever defended what happened with a single word or statement. On the contrary, all those who knew me, including the Canadian Foreign Ministry officials, deduced and were aware of my viewpoint. I challenge anyone to attribute to me a single word of support for what happened at private gatherings, in official statements to the media, or in official negotiations.

[Gazoulit] Ambassador al-Shawi, you are considered one of the brightest Iraqi diplomats.

[Al-Shawi] Thank you.

[Gazoulit] You assumed academic as well as ministerial positions before joining the diplomatic corps. At the news conference in London, you said that you believe that the objective alternative for the present regime in Iraq lies in adopting the Western version of democracy.

[Al-Shawi] Forgive me for interrupting. I did not say Western style; I said political pluralism and parliamentary democracy, be it of a Western or other style. We will not get into details about political systems now.

[Gazoulit] Anyway, can I say that your belief was developed after over two decades of working in a regime that has depended on the one-party system?

[Al-Shawi] I would like to remind you that I literally said in Arabic and English that bitter experience—I was referring to conditions in modern Iraq, perhaps since the establishment of the Iraqi state—bitter experience taught us that parliamentary democracy and political pluralism are the best system.

I have believed in this deeply for years. This is undoubtedly a major reason for my dismay with the regime, which gradually lost my confidence and respect. I do not say my support, because I never supported the regime. As I said at meetings yesterday, I was never a member of the Ba'th Party. I was never even a supporter of the party. I accepted the ministerial position in 1972 as a representative of the progressive, nationalist, pan-Arab front in which all the other parties were represented. This is not a criticism of the Ba'th party. Ba'thists know that I have been and still am an independent, unionist, pan-Arabist, and nationalist Iraqi. Under that same description, I was a member of the higher committee of the same front as a representative of the elements. I did not claim that for myself; they gave me that description. I do not claim to represent anyone, as you know. I represented the nationalist, progressive elements in the front. I was the only one who had that kind of representation in the higher committee.

To make a long story short, this belief was the result of the bitter experience. It was also a deduction. Modestly, I am a pupil in the world of politics. My experience led me to this deduction.

[Gazoulit] Ambassador al-Juburi, there is a basic remark regarding the time you set to finally join the Iraqi opposition outside Iraq. It is well known that the Iraqi Government asked you to return to Iraq one week before you made this decision. Why didn't you make this decision earlier?

[Al-Juburi] If I made this decision a year from now, I would be asked why I had not made it earlier. This matter, in fact, depends on several circumstances and considerations. I frankly say that it is not easy to take such a step until a favorable opportunity arises given the nature of the relationships prevailing within the current Iraqi regime. The question has nothing to do with any other consideration. The circumstances were right to leave, and I did.

[Gazoulit] Ambassador al-Shawi, you asked the Canadian Government for political asylum. It seems that your request was turned down. Afterwards, it seems that you asked the British Government for political asylum. You then announced at a news conference in London that you had joined the Iraqi opposition. My first question is: Has the British Government approved political asylum for you both together? If so, what is the position you want within the Iraqi opposition outside Iraq?

[Al-Shawi] I would like to correct the first part of your question. I thank you for raising this subject because it has been raised several times in the past two days. For the sake of fairness, history, and truth, I did not submit a request for the Canadian Government for asylum or residence. My Canadian friends did not reject any request for the simple reason that I did not submit such a request. This morning, I read allusions to such a request in certain newspapers. Someone whose name I do not want to mention spoke with good intention, but what he said was absolutely groundless. I reassert that the Canadian Government and friends did not reject a request because I did not submit one. They have always been kind to me and treated me with utmost respect and appreciation even when the Kuwait crisis was at its peak. This is the truth. I was even asked this morning about who helped me to defect, and I answered with a big smile that there was nothing dramatic about the issue. No one helped me because I did not need help. I planned everything and simply acted according to plan. It was not a dramatic escape. Of course, I prepared everything and shrouded it in secrecy. I then obtained a visa from the British Embassy in Ottawa publicly. Afterwards, I booked a flight and my son gave me a lift to the airport, and I entered Britain as a visitor.

[Gazoulit] Have you requested political asylum?

[Al-Shawi] We have not. So far, nothing has been determined regarding our residence or asylum. However, we were welcome as visitors to Britain.

[Gazoulit] The Unified Iraqi National Congress... [question incomplete as heard]

[Al-Shawi] I will answer your question. You said that I joined the Unified Iraqi National Congress. I said no just moments ago. I said that I was, am, and will remain a national, pan-Arab, independent Iraqi. I declared and repeat proudly that I will closely cooperate with not only the Unified Iraqi National Congress, but all Iraqi opposition groups in Britain. I share with most members and particularly the leaders the same goals and method and have friends and old personal ties with them.

[Gazoulit] Can I gather from your answer that you have not defined or do not want to define a clear position within the Iraqi opposition?

[Al-Shawi] No. Why should I evade a specific position? Given our eagerness to do our duty and contribute to the opposition effort, a position will be determined. However, so far, we have not started. As you can see we have been busy in the past two days. A position will be defined by the nature of the action. We will proudly accept a position. Everything depends on your definition of a position. It is not a matter of posts given to this one or that one or relationships for personal interests. If you mean that I will work within the ranks of the opposition as a struggling soldier to save Iraq and its freedom, in this sense, I will undoubtedly have a position.

[Gazoulit] Baghdad accused you both of opportunism and said that once you reached the age of retirement you did not want to return to Baghdad, especially because life there is difficult and harsh in view of the blockade imposed by the United Nations. What is your response to the Iraqi Government's statement?

[Al-Juburi] That was the least to be expected to be issued by Baghdad. However, Baghdad and the regime know full well who we are. I do not want to exaggerate, but this is not one of our qualities. I am not saying who we are in order to brag. However, Baghdad knows that opportunism is not one of our traits. Our upbringing, ethics, and political history prove that we have never been opportunists. Had we been opportunists, the regime knows well we would not have been in this country, leaving our beloved country or the beloved Iraqi people. I say with all frankness and honesty that one day in Iraq is better than a year in any other country. The problem is not to join our people who are suffering from a collapsing economic situation and salaries. Thank God, the regime knows we are in a reasonable situation. We can lead a life with the necessary means of living. This is well known. However, the main reason is that we have the opportunity to do our duty dictated by our responsibility for our country and people. Therefore, we made this decision. There are no other reasons.

[Gazoulit] What does Ambassador al-Shawi say in this respect?

[Al-Shawi] I support what my brother and colleague have said. This vituperation suits the regime. It exposes the nature of its source. Shame on them. Had we been opportunists, our situation would have been different. They know full well our record and standing in Iraq socially, politically, and economically. Had we opted for comfort and sought opportunities, we would have been in a different position. We would have lived in comfort enjoying respect and appreciation in our country. Those who know who Hamid al-Juburi and Hisham al-Shawi are socially, politically, and economically...[al-Shawi pauses] This is their nature. I do not want to respond to such vituperations because it is beneath me. In order just to disclose the false aspect of their accusation that I was retired and therefore decided—in fact I was transferred to Baghdad. [sentence as heard] Up to just the other day I was declaring my resignation. That is why I said in my statement that I was resigning. I was the Iraqi ambassador to Canada. I still had to serve another year and could possibly extend my term for two more years. Even in these small administrative matters that are well known to low-level employees in the Foreign Ministry, let alone the informed and important circles, the regime tells lies. This is my only comment on their accusation.

[Gazoulit] The Iraqi Government blames the social and economic deterioration on the blockade imposed by the United Nations. The statement you read to reporters in which you unequivocally declared your wish to join and deal with the Iraqi opposition shows that one of the reasons for your action is that you want to confront the tragic situation of the Iraqi people. What do you mean by a tragic situation?

[Al-Shawi] It is tragic in all senses of the word: economically, politically, morally, and socially, and involves every aspect. The party that is first responsible for this situation is the Iraqi regime in Iraq without going into details.

[Gazoulit] What has Ambassador al-Juburi to say in this respect?

[Al-Juburi] The situation, in fact, is worse than tragic. I said that all that was said about the tragedy and suffering of the Iraqi people is much less than the facts prevailing in Iraq. Therefore, even the term tragic is too modest to describe what is going on in Iraq.

[Gazoulit] Both of you have told Western media that you have no information about the Iraqi nuclear program. But we know that Ambassador al-Shawi was Iraq's representative and attended meetings of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in the seventies. This means that you definitely possess sensitive information that could harm the Iraqi regime.

[Al-Shawi] I will explain this issue to you and I thank you again for raising it. Some articles were published in certain newspapers this morning that I would not say distort the facts but do not reflect them accurately. I was minister of higher education and scientific research from 1972 to the end of 1974. In this official capacity, the higher education minister was the chairman of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Committee. This is correct, and I was its chairman. By virtue of my expertise... [al-Shawi pauses] Perhaps you know the nature of work in the IAEA—not its technical aspects, but on the level of the governors—it all involved political and legal affairs. At any rate, I was also the head of the Iraqi delegation in the IAEA General Assembly when Iraq was elected as member of the council. I served as Iraq's governor in the Agency for two years. But I assure you—it is correct what you said about my background—I had no knowledge of what happened in this field in Iraq after 1974. It is no secret that when I was responsible for the atomic energy committee, we possessed a small reactor of an estimated five megawatts. It was devoted to purely academic research, and undoubtedly, in other words, peaceful purposes. Some newspapers and some journalists asked me: In your capacity as higher education minister, you must have known the lists of students sent abroad to specialize in this field and prepare for the future programs. I deny this, too. I say unequivocally that yes, this happened later, but not in my time. Perhaps we sent some students along with the others—and this is natural—to specialize in physics or in one of its branches. Talking about a specific program for a specific purpose, as happened after I left the Higher Education Ministry and the Atomic Energy Committee—and at the same time the membership of the IAEA board of governors—I had absolutely no knowledge of what happened after that. I want you to emphasize this, as I am keeping no secrets.

[Gazoulit] Ambassador al-Juburi, some international analysts maintain that joining the Iraqi opposition abroad will have no effect at all on the survival or nonsurvival of the regime in Iraq, especially as neither of you possess any sensitive information that could negatively affect the existing Iraqi regime. What is your reaction to this?

[Al-Juburi] I will begin with your last remark. I have said clearly that our task is not the task of informers. We are not informers against our country, God forbid. God forbid that we be informers against our country and its secrets. We will absolutely not do this. The other thing is that with all humility we took this step as Iraqi citizens—and we could be Iraqi citizens in the future—who have joined the thousands of Iraqis living abroad. As for the extent of its effect at home or against the regime, only God will know. Our duty is to work together in unity and solidarity for our common goals.

[Al-Shawi] I fully support what he said. We have often been asked about this, and I have responded—and it is no secret—with displeasure to questions on the issue of our information and what we have to say. I responded firmly and with displeasure that we are not informers, we have never been informers in our life, and we will absolutely not start now. This is beyond our position, and I despise such questions. We are here as diplomats, politicians, and strugglers for the freedom of our country. We deal with everyone—relative, friend, or stranger—within these limits and on this level. Regarding our influence, as my colleague and brother has said, I do not claim any special importance or big role. The regime in Baghdad knows very well how it will be effected, because people and their influence are measured by other criteria. They know, and any objective person who knows our social and political position, record, relations, experience, and our current relations with the various sectors of the Iraqi people will know very well and can appreciate the value and importance of our decision.

[Gazoulit] Ambassador al-Shawi, from an academician to a minister to an ambassador to a member of the opposition. What is your viewpoint of effective opposition, particularly with respect to the current situation in Iraq?

[Al-Shawi] It will be effective so long as its ranks are united, so long as their principles are firm and their aims and programs are clear cut, and they are and will always be, God willing. You and everybody have heard about certain conditions within the opposition. I believe they are exaggerated. They share common principles, a common goal, and common programs. We, in our own very modest capacity as independents and brothers who respect everybody, will do our best to clear this small aspect. The opposition is effective through its unity, the firmness of its principles, and the solidity of its determination and decisions and complete faith in the dignity of its country, its freedom, and right to a decent human life.

[Gazoulit] Ambassador al-Juburi, you, as I know, were a member of the ruling Ba'th Party. This party claims that a great number of the Iraqi people want this party to remain in power. Now you have turned from a party struggler to an opponent of the party. What is your reaction to this?

[Al-Juburi] I am not an opponent of the Ba'th Party. I still consider myself a Ba'thist. The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party is the first victim of the current regime, and this is known to all Iraqis.

[Gazoulit] You said that the regime does not represent the Ba'th Party. Who then does it represent?

[Al-Juburi] It represents itself.

[Gazoulit] My last question is to both of you. The Arab political street in general is wondering how significant the Iraqi opposition outside Iraq is and believes that any opposition must be inside Iraq. Do you agree with this?

[Al-Shawi] For me I do not think this is essential. The opposition inside Iraq has its great importance, just as the organized opposition outside Iraq has its great role. What is important, as I said, is to maintain its unity and close coordination between these two wings.

[Gazoulit] What do you have to say about this, Mr. Ambassador?

[Al-Juburi] I believe that each complements the other. For known reasons, many Iraqis have left their country and stayed in various world countries. They have their own ideas about the current regime and are working to make a change and establish a different, democratic, and multiparty regime that respects human rights. The opposition abroad complements that of the inside. Naturally the decisive factor is of course the Iraqi people, the majority of whom live inside Iraq. There is no question about this. But there is absolutely no conflict between the two. On the contrary, both sides of the opposition are doing their duty.

[Gazoulit] But the Iraqi regime remains in power and is dealing with some Arab regimes as well as the world community in general. Where you think the Iraqi opposition gains its strength?

[Al-Juburi] From the Iraqi people, first and foremost.

[Al-Shawi] From the people and from itself.

[Al-Juburi] If it really represents the hopes, aspirations, and ideas of the Iraqi people, this means it is strong. First and foremost it must have faith in its cause, its people, and the future of its country, thus restoring Iraq's leading role in the Arab homeland, which it has been playing since the establishment of the Iraqi state in the twenties of this century.

[Gazoulit] I will add one last question. How do you view the relation between Iraq and the Gulf states, which, geographically speaking, are the closest countries to Iraq?

[Al-Shawi] You mean my views concerning the current regime or in the future?

[Gazoulit] In the future.

[Al-Shawi] They must be relations based on fraternity, full solidarity, unity, and mutual respect at all times. There is no question about this as far as I am concerned.

[Gazoulit] In the name of MBC, I thank you both for this interview.

Brother of Ambassador Cables Saddam

JN0709070793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from the Iraqi citizen Hamdi 'Alwan 'Abbud al-Juburi, in which he denounced the deviant behavior of Hamid 'Alwan 'Abbud al-Juburi [former Iraqi ambassador to Tunisia who sought asylum in Britain].

The following is the text of the cable.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Esteemed Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over you. I, Hamdi 'Alwan 'Abbud al-Juburi, strongly denounce the deviation of Hamid 'Alwan 'Abbud al-Juburi, who acted in a despicable, indecent manner that violates our morals and the code of conduct of genuine Arabs.

Based on what the above-mentioned person has done, I hereby disown him and support the earlier cables of my brothers and cousins sent to you when I was ill and bedridden.

We beseech God to protect you and watch over great Iraq to safeguard the dignity of Arabs and Iraqis. Success comes from God.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Coup Attempt by Tikriti Clan Said Foiled in July

NC0609114693 Paris AFP in English 1038 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Amman, Sept 6 (AFP)—President Saddam Husayn foiled a coup by members of his Tikriti clan at the end of July and ordered a wave of executions and arrests, Iraqi sources said here Monday [6 September].

They said "dozens of executions and arrests" were carried out, but the exact number was unknown.

All those put to death were members of the Tikriti clan, from Saddam's home region of Tikrit, while those arrested belonged to other families.

The report came as Saddam sacked Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi in a government shake-up.

He appointed finance minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir on Sunday to head the third government since the 1991 Gulf war.

Iraq gave no official reason for the nine changes to the government which came against a background of deepening economic and social problems caused by U.N. sanctions imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Iraqi National Congress, an exiled opposition movement based in London, said on August 29 that Saddam had executed five members of the regime, including two from the Tikriti clan.

The congress said the move was in retaliation for the defection of two former ministers and ambassadors, Hamid al-Juburi and Hisham al-Shawi, who went over to its ranks.

Gaza-Jericho Accord Raises 'Major Questions'

JN0709095293 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Sep 93 p 2

[Article by Hasan al-Kashif: "Gaza-Jericho"]

[Text] For the first time in the history of the Arab-Zionist conflict, an announcement has been made about a Palestinian-Israeli agreement. The agreement was reached on 20 August in Oslo between Shim'on Peres and a senior PLO official.

Describing it as a "historic agreement," the enemy prime minister said his delegation to the 11th round will be authorized to sign it.

The scarce information leaked by the media about the Gaza-Jericho agreement leaves big gaps and raises serious questions. The Gaza-Jericho First is a beginning to self-administration in the Gaza Strip and the town of Jericho. Domestic security, police, social care, health, education, and tourism will be the responsibility of the Palestinian self-administrative authority. According to information released by Tel Aviv, the occupation army will withdraw from populated areas and redeploy at the entrance of Gaza and Jericho. The crossing points that link Gaza with Egypt and Jericho with Jordan will be under Israeli control.

This is the available information about the imminent Gaza-Jericho accord. What gives the issue an air of excitement are the measures being taken on the ground. Preparations are about to be completed, starting with the police, etc.

The Gaza-Jericho agreement has sparked a very heated Arab and Palestinian debate because it delays the question of Jerusalem, does not mention the fate of the 1948 and 1967 refugees, the relationship between the rest of the 1967-occupied territories with Gaza and Jericho, independence, sovereignty, or a Palestinian state.

The Gaza-Jericho accord decides temporarily the fate of a spot alongside the river, Jericho, and another alongside the sea, Gaza. It does not guarantee the fate of Palestine from the river to the sea. The enemy prime minister said it is a historic agreement for Israel. However, for Palestine, as a homeland, people, and cause, it raises major

questions. The intifadah, which is almost exclusive to the Gaza Strip, will come to an end following the imminent agreement. The negotiating Arabs, who have finalized their agreements with Tel Aviv and are waiting for progress on the Palestinian track, will no longer have to wait and will be free of any embarrassment and thus rush toward endorsement and recognition, since the Gaza-Jerciho accord implies mutual recognition.

The quarrel over the Gaza-Jericho agreement is so serious because it is not over details but involves principles, goals, and the fate of institutions which bear the responsibility for Palestinian decisions. Another serious aspect of the agreement is that the first step in the relationship with Tel Aviv could lead to a final breach with the comrades of the trench and march. This breach could also encompass the people, who have been waiting for salvation, rather than estrangement, for 25 years.

The question is so big. It does not suffice to level an accusation or just take a principled stand that would not make a distinction between one or another recognition of "Israel." The agreement has sparked a wide controversy, even before going into effect. Because the agreement was not reached by collective Palestinian and Arab decisionmaking institutions, it will become a reality on the ground even before it is a draft on paper.

Gaza-Jericho First is more than a step and more serious than a beginning, in view of its clear orientations, despite all the vague details. A principled stand says no to all plans and steps to recognize the Zionist entity and continues to support the Arabism of Palestine, the unity of its people and revolutionaries, and the cohesion of its national institutions.

Foreign Ministry Denies Secret Contacts With Syria

TA0709064493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Uri Savir, director general of the Foreign Ministry, by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Excerpts] [Zissowitz] According to reports from Tunis, PLO sources insist that secret contacts are under way with Syria. Are any contacts being held with Damascus in addition to the talks in Washington?

[Savir] I do not know about it. At the moment, the emphasis is on the Palestinian issue.

[Zissowitz] Press reports talk about a territorial agreement emerging with Syria, perhaps along the lines of Majdal Shams First.

[Savir] I do not know anything about it either. I believe all these speculations are an aftereffect of the surprise with the Palestinian issue; people are looking for other surprises. I think we must now concentrate on the current breakthrough and make do with it. We are conducting negotiations in Washington on all four tracks, with the Palestinian issue being the main topic on the agenda.

[Zissowitz] The logic behind such assumptions is that just as a breakthrough was made with the Palestinians in secret contacts rather than around the negotiating table, the agreement which has not been attained with the Syrians in the public talks in Washington will be reached in behind-the-scenes contacts.

[Savir] I am not sure this logic is founded. Perhaps journalists or people in general are afraid of missing the truth. The truth at the moment is that we are holding contacts with the Palestinians on the question of mutual recognition. An outstanding achievement was made with regard to the agreement of principles with the Palestinians, which we hope to sign next week. [passage omitted]

[Zissowitz] Some Labor members have criticized remarks by Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich and Labor's Mashov circle about the possibility of a Palestinian state ultimately being established and the establishment of a Palestinian authority in Jerusalem. Do you think such statements serve Israel's interests?

[Savir] Any political statement or criticism from opposing quarters serve Israeli democracy. The negotiations themselves follow a clear course and are not affected by statements. Incidentally, all that Ambassador Rabinovich said was that all options in the negotiations about a permanent arrangement remain open. However, we are talking about an interim arrangement now. This is a good arrangement, and we must proceed toward implementation rather than deal with speculations.

[Zissowitz] Does that mean you also believe the option exists that a Palestinian state will ultimately be established?

[Savir] Neither Ambassador Rabinovich nor I believe that. That is not Israel's policy. When discussing the permanent arrangement the Palestinians will be able to raise any issue, but at the moment we are not at all discussing the permanent arrangement. Israel has not changed its position vis-a-vis a Palestinian state. Pity that people dwell on such issues. We are still busy with the preparations for the signing of an agreement which constitutes a breakthrough for Israel and strengthens Israel's position and security. What will happen within a few years we have yet to discuss among ourselves and with them.

[Zissowitz] I am not yet clear about one point: Does Israel make the amendment to the Palestinian National Covenant, renouncing terror and ceasing the intifadah, a condition for signing the agreement with the PLO?

[Savir] If what you mean is a condition for the PLO being a signatory to the agreement or about negotiations with the PLO, the answer is definitely yes.

[Zissowitz] Thank you very much, sir.

Opposition Continues Campaign Against Gaza-Jericho Plan

Sharon Urges Likud To Renounce Pacts

TA0409094193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Ari'el Sharon today called on the Likud to announce that when it returns to power, it will not honor agreements signed by the Labor government. The Likud believes the agreements to be injurious to Israel's security. Sharon was echoing a similar call made this week by Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau.

[Begin Sharon recording] The national parties, and mainly the Likud, are today duty-bound to announce that when they resume management of state affairs, they will not honor agreements endangering Israel's very existence. These agreements, requiring broad national consensus, had been endorsed by an extremely small majority. Can you imagine a government headed by the Israeli national parties implementing a plan they believe endangers Israel's very existence? [end recording]

Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer rejected Sharon's remarks, saying they incite popular uprising.

[Begin Ben-Eli'ezer recording] I think it is eminently grave. This is the start of an incitement to rebellion. I am beginning to see a connection between the calls for rebellion and these remarks that they will not honor previous commitments if they assume power. What will they do? Will they announce another war in the territories? Is it that serious? [end recording]

Netanyahu: Likud To Stop Plan by Legal Means

TA0409101593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by 'Adi Talmor on the weekly "In the Current Situation" program—live]

[Text] [Talmor] Good morning, Binyamin Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good morning.

[Talmor] Can you even contemplate what Sharon has proposed—that a Likud government, if and when one is established, should not implement agreements signed by the Labor government?

[Netanyahu] Look, agreements are usually signed in order to be carried out, but we know with whom we have business here: a body that has never honored any agreement it signed and that has systematically violated them. Naturally, if that happens here—and I believe, I am convinced, it will indeed happen—Israel will of course be absolved of the need to honor agreements violated by others.

In any event, the Likud—complying with the law and the mandate it will have received from the electorate—will take action to foil the dangers arising from this dangerous agreement—if it is indeed signed.

[Talmor] But such a presumptive announcement could hit your party like a boomerang if and when you resume power.

[Netanyahu] I said we will act in accordance with the law, both the Israeli and international law, and with the electoral mandate in our efforts to foil dangers stemming from the agreement. This agreement is but a platform for certain actions. We will have to take care of state security, and we will do everything necessary to protect the security of the state—I stress, in the framework of the law.

[Talmor] What is your reaction to calls for a civil uprising, for civil war, and similar remarks voiced by settlers in the territories against the government policy?

[Netanyahu] I reject them categorically. This was not among the courses of action we contemplated. The existence of the state is faced with two awesome threats. The first lies in the agreement, which starts with Gaza and Jericho and will give the PLO control over the entire area within a very short time. The PLO has already announced that it will bring a million refugees there, that it is establishing an initial army of 30,000, taking over security. 'Arafat told his opponents that this is just the phased plan. He meant the PLO's two-stage plan for the destruction of the State of Israel endorsed in 1974. This—a PLO state five minutes away from Kefar Sava, Tel Aviv—is an existential danger.

The second danger lies in the disintegration of our democratic fabric. I call on all the plan's opponents: First of all, voice your objection with all your strength, take every step you can within the legal framework of democracy. These steps must be taken as part of an effort to defend the state, and that is what we will do. We will stop this thing eventually, because the people of Israel will not commit suicide—in either way.

[Talmor] Thank you very much, Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu.

Rabin Voices Concern About Opposition Statements

TA0609112093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Sep 93 p A3

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday expressed grave concern about the possibility of a right-wing campaign opposing the emerging agreement with the Palestinians. Rabin urged the attorney general and the police to examine the possibility of taking steps to thwart the intention of demonstrators to "close down the government" during tomorrow's planned demonstration opposite government offices in Jerusalem.

Rabin voiced amazement at some of the statements made by extreme right-wing spokesmen over the weekend. He said that these statements constituted an "incitement to rebellion." The prime minister said that the government would give those opposed to the agreement full freedom of speech and respect their right to demonstrate. Rabin noted, however, that violations of public order or any challenge to government authority would not be tolerated. He added that the demonstrators' intention to disrupt the functioning of the government and the Knesset was intolerable and ordered the police to prevent this.

The prime minister was speaking at yesterday's short cabinet session in which Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres briefed the ministers about the progress made in the contacts with the PLO. At the session, police sources briefed the cabinet on their preparations for the demonstration. The sources warned that violent situations could develop. Security elements reported on preparations by residents of the territories and the expectation of violent clashes between Fatah, which mostly supports the agreement, and rejectionist organizations and Islamic groups. [passage omitted]

Calls Likud Remarks 'Hypocrisy'

TA0709084993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is fighting the right-wing opposition. In an municipal election rally in Rishon Leziyyon last night, Rabin described the Likud leaders as liars and scaremongers. He stated that his government would not pay for peace the way the Likud government paid for the peace treaty with Egypt. Our correspondent 'Anat Peleg reports:

[Begin recording] [Peleg] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin settled scores with the Likud leaders who have been

attacking the peace plan, asserting that he does not intend to pay the price the Likud government paid for the peace treaty with Egypt. Lashing out at the Likud leaders, he said: We will not uproot any settlement.

[Rabin] We have not uprooted even one settlement. Not even one settlement will be uprooted as part of the agreement with the Palestinians.

The Likud people are trying to intimidate the nation. They are stuck in a ghetto mentality and do not think like Israelis. They know nothing about having the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and being a strong country. They spread lies.

[Peleg] The prime minister reviewed the opposition of the Likud and its historical predecessors to peace treaties in the past: the Revisionist Movement's opposition to the partition plan accepted by David Ben-Gurion and the hell they raised when Prime Minister Golda Meir signed a cease-fire agreement during the war of attrition with Egypt and the disengagement agreements with Syria after the Six-Day War.

[Rabin] What hypocrisy! If peace can be attained without having to give back even one centimeter, why did they fail to retain even one centimeter of the Sinai Peninsula? Blabbermouths!

[Peleg] Lebanon is closer than ever to peace, he added. Were it up to them, the Lebanese would sign the agreement, but Syria is not letting them. Recalling the mistakes made in the past, we made the decision to give priority to the Palestinians very cautiously.

[Rabin] Did you know that before the Madrid conference the Shamir government failed to get a statement in writing of the U.S. assurances that East Jerusalem would not be part of the autonomy but that we got it from the Palestinians?

[Peleg] We want the Gazans in Gaza, not in Rishon Leziyyon. I will cope with the criticism and demonstrations, he said.

[Rabin] All those people who made peace always had somebody call them a traitor. Let me put it simply: I do not give a damn about them! [end recording]

Rabin: Knesset To Vote on Agreement After Signing

TA0509114693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Today's cabinet session focused exclusively on the contacts between the PLO and Israel preparatory to the signing of the agreement of principles and the declarations of mutual recognition. At the session, it transpired that there were still some problems with the phrasing of the letters of mutual recognition. However, many ministers expressed the opinion that these difficulties could be surmounted within several days. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the ministers were told that one of the reasons for the delay was Israel's demand that the documents of mutual recognition not include any clauses in addition to those mentioned in the agreement of principles. An example of this was the Palestinians' attempt to incorporate a clause on Jerusalem.

During the session, the prime minister announced that the documents formulated between Israel and the Palestinians would be brought before the Knesset for a vote only after they had been signed in Washington. The Likud faction is demanding that the documents be brought before the Knesset plenum immediately. Knesset Member Moshe Qatzav, chairman of the Likud faction, said that the government was carrying out a campaign of deceit and kowtowing to Yasir 'Arafat, whom he called a drug dealer and leader of murderers.

Ministers Comment After Cabinet Session on Peace Process

TA0509124693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] We will begin with a report from today's cabinet session by political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

[Begin recording] [Raz] The cabinet session was shorter than usual and dealt exclusively with one issue. The message emanating from today's cabinet session was that although there were still some disagreements with the PLO regarding the declaration of mutual recognition, the argument was only over certain words and not principles, or in other words, over the phrasing of the agreement. At the cabinet session, Shim'on Peres was already racing ahead. He is more optimistic, whereas Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is more cautious. The cabinet, however, is unanimous in the belief that resolving the difficulties is only a matter of time. This opinion is shared by all the ministers on both ends of the political spectrum. Here is Yosi Sarid, one of the doves in the cabinet.

[Sarid] In my assessment, the negotiations are proceeding in a satisfactory way. However, there are still some difficulties and obstacles on the way to mutual recognition. I am almost certain that these obstacles can be overcome within a week.

[Raz] Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur is normally one of the most hawkish ministers, but he also spoke in a similar spirit.

[Tzur] I think that we are really at the start of a new era in which the possibilities outweigh the risks. I believe that there are strong signals coming from the public attesting to this. Speaking in a general sense, one can say that nothing has changed in the government's policy, and the PLO's current steps should be welcomed. We will now make progress together.

[Raz] What steps does the PLO have to take in order to enable mutual recognition? First, it has to recognize Israel, rescind terrorism, recognize Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, abrogate all the problematic clauses in the Palestinian Covenant, and establish a joint committee with Israel in order to peacefully resolve

differences. As for the problematic issue of terrorism, here are Ministers Ben-Eli'ezer and Mikha Harish.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] As far as I am concerned, the main issue is not only the recognition of Israel's right to exist in security, but also a renunciation of terrorism and a readiness to fight against terrorism. Without this, no progress will be possible on this matter in my opinion.

[Harish] The declaration of mutual recognition must be accompanied by the PLO's total renunciation of terrorism. Therefore, this cannot be seen as some temporary thing on Israel's part. Nevertheless, even in future I will continue to rely more on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Israeli security forces in this matter. I am quite reassured with regard to the risks we are taking because Israel's military might remains so powerful under this agreement.

[Raz] Minister Hayim Ramon pointed to another problem in the formulation of the letters of mutual recognition: Both Israel and the PLO have to face up to domestic problems.

[Ramon] We are facing problems with our domestic opposition, and they are apparently in an even tougher situation. That is what the negotiations are all about in my opinion. I would like to believe that things will be resolved within several days. I hope already this week, so that the entire package, including the declaration of mutual recognition, could be signed in Washington this week. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Beilin on Conditions for Recognition of PLO

TA0509164593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Mardor] At today's cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres reported that there are still outstanding problems before the PLO recognizes Israel. What remains unresolved?

[Beilin] There are no negotiations between the PLO and us on mutual recognition. We presented the PLO with a series of conditions. If it accepts them, there will be mutual recognition. If it does not, there will not be recognition.

[Mardor] What conditions are you currently referring to?

[Beilin] I cannot detail the conditions, but in general they are very close to the old Yariv-Shemtov formula, which refers to recognition of the right of Israel to exist, cessation of terrorism, and changes in the Palestinian National Covenant.

[Friedman] What are the formulas the Palestinians currently insist upon?

[Beilin] To repeat, there are no negotiations. I do not know precisely what they are having second thoughts about in Tunis. We can survive without mutual recognition. The most important thing that has taken place in the meantime is the agreement of principles, and if they cannot accept our conditions, then we will make do with the agreement of principles.

[Mardor] How is Israel dealing with a situation whereby the PLO has renounced terrorism but continues to support the armed struggle?

[Beilin] I do not think there will be such a wordRng in any agreement or PLO announcement.

[Friedman] Israel says that even if the mutual recognition agreement between the PLO and us does not come to fruition, there is no reason not to sign the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians. In other words, if that is the case, then Israel has come to a political agreement with a PLO which has not changed, something that is unacceptable to us since we say we will not negotiate with a wicked PLO.

[Beilin] We came to an agreement with that wicked PLO in 1981, which stood up until Israel started the Lebanese war in 1982. With that wicked PLO, we reached an agreement at the Madrid conference. Therefore, we can also reach an agreement of principles with the wicked PLO without changing it through a public announcement or declarations by it. It would, of course, be preferable for that obstacle to be lifted and for the PLO to accept our conditions. I assume that is what will happen, but I am definitely not standing here with a stop watch. After 100 years of conflict, I have sufficient patience to wait another week or two.

[Friedman] But the question is whether we can depend on a PLO that does not reach an agreement with us on mutual recognition and the abandoning of terrorism to uphold a political agreement we have cosigned with it.

[Beilin] The fact is that in the past we reached agreements with it under a Likud government and other governments, and it abided by those agreements.

[Mardor] King Husayn said that further agreements will be signed. He spoke specifically about an Israeli-Jordanian accord, which is currently in the works, and about the meetings in Norway. Update us on that. What is your response to that?

[Beilin] The agreement with Jordan was due to be signed several months ago. It is only an accord on the principles or contents of the negotiations. Although it has been agreed upon, Jordan refused to sign at the last minute, apparently because it preferred to wait for somebody else to reach an agreement with us first. It did not want to be the first to sign any agreement, even such an initial one, with Israel. Now that the Palestinians are about to sign something like that with us, I assume that they will be the

first to join. Therefore, there are no technical or substantive problems in the signing of the agreement of principles with Jordan.

[Mardor] Dennis Ross said yesterday in an interview on CNN that Arab states support the Oslo accord. Can you tell us which states?

[Beilin] No, I cannot tell you, but I must say that I would very much like to see something like that made public. Jordan was the first yesterday to publicly support the agreement, and I hope—and I have reason to assume it will happen—there will be others.

[Friedman] What will the next move be if both agreements with the Palestinians are signed? Will Syria once again top the agenda?

[Beilin] For us, all are at the top of the agenda. We want to reach overall peace. And if we can make progress with Syria, we will not tell it to wait, and we will not tell Lebanon or anybody else to wait.

[Friedman] Can we reach an agreement with Syria now more than in the past, or does an agreement with the Palestinians slow down the negotiations with the Syrians?

[Beilin] Both possibilities exist, in theory, and I am not wise enough to say which is more probable. My feeling is that an agreement with one side spurs an agreement with another, while deadlock induces further deadlock. The stalemate with the other elements led Jordan to retreat, and I very much hope—although I cannot prove it—that the agreement with the Palestinians will also encourage the Syrians, the Lebanese, and the Jordanians to reach agreements with us.

[Mardor] Yosi Beilin, to sum up, you are known as close to the rebbes of Gur and Wiznicz. How do you manage to convince the ultra-Orthodox to support the agreement?

[Beilin] To say that I am close to them is an exaggeration. There was a time when I was a frequent guest there, but that is not the case now.

Welcomes King Husayn's Statement

TA0409112793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Jordan's King Husayn fully supports the PLO-Israeli agreement. He has said that this is a serious move made by the two parties toward a just and durable peace agreement. [passage omitted]

Welcoming King Husayn's statement, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said the Jordanian king is the first Arab leader voicing support for the Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

However, the deputy minister saw a problem in the king's announcement in that after the PLO signed the agreement with Israel, Jordan would disband the two-year-old joint framework and attend to its own affairs. Dr. Beilin said that the interim agreement, as well as the permanent agreement, are supposed to happen with the Palestinians in conjunction with Jordan.

Proposes Palestinian Borough in East Jerusalem

TA0509183293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin has proposed that Jerusalem remain united as Israel's capital, but that a Palestinian borough be established in the city under the authority of the Jerusalem municipality. Beilin said this was the position of Jerusalem's Mayor Teddy Kollek. The deputy foreign minister was addressing Mashov, a dovish group in the Labor Party.

Jerusalem Mayor Kollek has reacted with surprise to the remarks on Jerusalem by Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin. Kollek said that the rights of the Palestinians should be guaranteed, but that the city must remain united and under Israeli sovereignty.

Denies Comment on Palestinian Authority

TA0509202893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin denies he talked about the establishment of a Palestinian municipal authority in Jerusalem. Yosi Beilin says that the Mashov circle, which he heads, favors a sovereign and united Jerusalem with one municipality, mayor, and exclusive Israeli authority. At the same time, the Mashov circle supports Mayor Teddy Kollek's borough plan, into which East Jerusalem or the Muslim Quarter can be incorporated.

Teddy Kollek said there is no place for two capitals and two municipalities in Jerusalem and noted that Yosi Beilin has not spoken with him.

Likud Knesset Member Yehoshu'a Matza, head of the Knesset Internal Affairs Committee, said he will convene the committee to discuss the remarks attributed to Yosi Beilin.

Peres: Negotiations on Declaration Complete

TA0409050493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is spending the Sabbath is Paris, had two meetings yesterday with his Norwegian counterpart Johan Jorgen Holst. In an interview with a Qol Yisra'el correspondent, Peres denied that he was holding contacts with Palestinian representatives in Paris or that negotiations were going on between the PLO and Israel. As far as Israel was concerned, the negotiations with the PLO on a declaration of principles regarding Gaza-Jericho First had been completed, he said, and Israel would not agree to renegotiating the content.

On the issue of mutual recognition, Peres said that Israel is demanding that the PLO renounce terror as a condition for agreement. Both Peres and Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin have made it clear that they regard as separate issues the declaration of principles and the question of mutual recognition. If there is agreement on mutual recognition, the declaration of principles could be signed by top-level Israeli and PLO officials. If not, Israel believes that the delegations in Washington could sign the declaration.

Foreign Minister Peres will also be meeting this morning with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali. Butrus-Ghali has been holding talks in Paris with the French foreign minister.

Rejects UN Troops in Gaza, Jericho

TA0409084093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today rejected UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's suggestion to deploy UN troops in Gaza and Jericho. He said the [Israeli-PLO] agreement addressed security matters and that Israel is to be in charge of its own security and that of its citizens. The two men met at their hotel in Paris.

Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts further reports that Butrus-Ghali and Peres agreed that the UN agencies operations will have to be expanded—mainly in the Gaza Strip, which has to be developed.

Butrus-Ghali congratulated Israel and the Palestinians on their success, noting that this was the first step, and that a great deal of patience and courage was still required.

Interviewed on Accord

JN0409203093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1905 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondent Florence Bouje, in French, with superimposed Arabic translation; in Paris on 4 September—recorded]

[Text] [Bouje] There are rumors that a meeting was held last night between you and two Palestinian officials in the presence of the Norwegian foreign minister.

[Peres] If this is related to a secret meeting, I would like to say that all matters that I promised to keep secret will remain so. I do not want to answer any questions of this kind, because this important for the future. We should keep our promises.

[Bouje] Despite the progress noticed at the beginning of the peace process, we notice some hesitation. This morning, the Fatah Central Committee gave the green light. But, we have had no clarifications with regard to two things: Mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, and the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. Which will precede the other? when will this take place?

[Peres] There are two or three different documents. One of them, that is, the declaration of principles, is completely independent. This also includes self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. This document was initialed by the Palestinians. It was approved by the Israeli Government. It was endorsed, as I believe, by the Palestinian leaders. These documents will be signed in Washington by the heads of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations.

With regard to Israel's recognition of the PLO, this is something else. This is not mutual recognition, because Israel does exist. We also said: We have nothing against individuals, but against your policy, because we cannot live with a political movement which adopts a charter that depends on terrorism and calls for the destruction of Israel. This is impossible. If the PLO amends its charter and terrorism is stopped, there will be no problem. That stand toward the PLO has been taken by the United States and Israel, so it was necessary to coordinate with the United States with regard to the charter. Therefore, I headed for California, where I met Christopher and the Norwegian foreign minister.

Now, the ball is in the PLO's court. The situation is similar to the one that existed between France and the Algerian National Liberation Front. France did not recognize the front as long as it adopted violence. When it became a political party the situation changed.

[Bouje] When the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza were asked about the agreement, we found they were reluctant vis-a-vis the agreement on Gaza-Jericho First. What would you tell them in order to reassure them that this step will be followed by other steps?

[Peres] I want to say that the Palestinian side will gain something real, and Israel will abandon something real. Israel is doing this because it wants to achieve peace, within the framework of respect and equality with the Palestinians. Ultimately, a Palestinian entity, a respected Palestinian personality, and economic success will be achieved. This is good for Israel, not just for the Palestinian people. We should also ask those gentlemen: What is the alternative? Is it the continuation of battles, or civil war among the Palestinians? Three thousand Palestinians were killed by the Palestinians themselves. It is really time we opened a new chapter.

[Bouje] In Washington, the Syrian and Israeli sides sounded optimistic over the weekend. Do you see the two sides signing an agreement before the week is out, simultaneously with the Israeli-Palestinian agreement?

[Peres] We are optimistic, but not that much.

[Bouje] Is Israel willing to pull out of all the Golan Heights in return for a peace accord with Syria?

[Peres] We have reached an agreement wiht the Palestinians. We haven't gotten that far with the Syrians. I do not want to conduct negotiations on the radio, however. In principle, the Syrians are for peace. They are proposing peace without diplomatic relations or embassies

or open borders. The chief Syrian delegate to the Washington talks said a distinction must be drawn between peace and the results of peace.

[Bouje] According to the document, the question of Jerusalem will be addressed at a later stage. The Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are under the impression that Jerusalem has somehow been renounced. Can they hope to have renewed access to the city in the first stage after they have been denied access for months now?

[Peres] If terrorism stops and there is a visible lessening of violence, Jerusalem will be reopened to the Palestinians.

[Bouje] Do you mean by a halt to terrorism a halt to the intifadah?

[Peres] The intifadah is a mere expression. I am talking about the situation on the ground rather than about the symbol.

[Bouje] You have seen ranking French officials. What, besides financial assistance, would you like to see France offer the occupied territories?

[Peres] We must do all we can so that the political agreement translates into an economic success. Ironically, I am now looking for aid for the West bank and Gaza rather than for Israel. This is because Gaza must become a new Singapore—a major economic success story.

[Bouje] You are seeking funds for the West Bank and Gaza Strip; is that in order for Israel to stop paying?

[Peres] No, no, no. Israel will continue to contribute toward the betterment of the economic lot of Gaza and the West Bank, because we will still be together for the next five years. I think the ideal means to halt violence is positive economic intervention.

[Bouje] Will Israel stop settlement building or expansion, once the accord is signed?

[Peres] Settlement building was halted before the negotiations voluntarily and not as part of an agreement with the Palestinians. The settlements will remain just as Arab settlements will remain in Israel.

[Bouje)] The subject of self-rule always conjures up the next stage, and that is the Palestinian state that will live in peace with Israel. Does Israel agree to that?

[Peres] I do not want to answer this question. The Israeli Government has yet to take a position. As of now, we are opposed to the establishment of a separate Palestinian state. The ideal solution for all parties is a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli confederal relationship. I believe the Palestinian question is one and the same as the Jordanian question. When we have a problem we must find a solution. When we have two solutions to one problem we create a new problem. I am convinced that relations must be sorted out between the Jordanians and the Palestinians by peaceful means. The ideal solution, as I said, is a confederation. Switzerland is a confederation made up of cantons. There are other options.

Says No Alternative to Agreement

TA0509110493 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Sep 93 pp 3, 13

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Orli Azulay-Katz "in Paris last night"]

[Excerpts] [Peres] Both Israel and the Palestinians have no choice other than to sign the agreement. It will come into being, even if it takes a few more days. What other choice does 'Arafat have? What other choice do we have?

The people in Tunis who object to the agreement are mainly those who were offended by the fact that they were not let in on what was going on. As soon as they endorse the agreement of principles, either before or perhaps after it is signed, Tunis and Jerusalem will issue a declaration of mutual recognition. I do not think there is a power in the world that can stop this process.

Not even Syria, which I know for a fact has been trying to obstruct the Palestinians. Incidentally, I do not think the Syrians have the power to impede the signing of the agreement. We are prepared to negotiate with Syria, but we will not agree to any linkage or interrelation between the agreement with the Palestinians and a possible agreement with Syria. I am not aware of any Syrian message to Israel that it wants to enter negotiations.

I do not know what the word pessimism means. I have never known it in all my life. The Americans proposed that the agreement be signed in Washington on 13 September, and Israel is prepared to do that. The ball is now in the Palestinian court. [passage omitted]

[Azulay-Katz] Faysal al-Husayni argues that as soon as the agreement is signed the PLO will bring about 30,000 policemen to the West Bank to maintain order. Do you agree with him?

[Peres] The number of policemen that will be brought in has not yet been decided or discussed. We have two months to decide on all the outstanding issues, such as the question of the policemen, the boundaries of the autonomous area around Jericho—what exactly this entails—and what the security zones will be. This will also be discussed.

[Azulay-Katz] How many Palestinian policemen do you agree to?

[Peres] I am not dealing with that issue. It is the business of the defense and police ministers.

[Azulay-Katz] The Palestinians talk about the establishment of a Palestinian state after the agreement is signed.

[Peres] Talk is not part of the agreement. The agreement makes no mention whatsoever of a Palestinian state.

However, this does not mean that they cannot dream about it or aspire to it. What do you want them to say? They must talk that way.

[Azulay-Katz] The PLO is having a hard time passing decisions pertaining to the agreement. Do you think 'Arafat is still in control of the PLO?

[Peres] It is not for me to answer that question. As long as there is no recognition, there is a Palestinian delegation which, as far as we are concerned, represents the Palestinians. Moreover, most Palestinians want peace and most of them have no other choice. Therefore, the problem is not with individuals. There is no alternative to peace, neither for the Palestinians nor for us.

[Azulay-Katz] Will Israel allow the PLO to set up radio and television stations in Gaza and Jericho?

[Peres] This is one of the issues that will be taken up by the committees set up to decide on outstanding problems.

[Azulay-Katz] What is your schedule for this coming week?

[Peres] I have an Israeli schedule, and I would not like to mention any dates. The Americans proposed that the agreement be signed on 13 September, and that is OK with us.

Rabin, Peres Discuss PLO-Israel Recognition

TA0609054593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held consultations until late last night regarding the formulations relating to the mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO. Following these consultations, Israel forwarded several new ideas to bridge the phrasing gaps between Israel and the PLO. Authoritative sources in Jerusalem told our political correspondent there are good chances that the gaps be bridged by the end of the week and that mutual recognition will be attained.

Ramon: No IDF Intervention in Gaza After Accord

TA0409152093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Minister Hayim Ramon said today that after the implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians, Israel will not intervene in Gaza Strip affairs and will not send IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers into the territories under the Palestinian self-government even if there is a bloodbath between the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. He added the PLO will be mainly tested on its ability to control Hamas in the territories. Our correspondent Yehudit Zilberstein reports that Minister Ramon was speaking in Elat.

Savir: IDF To Redeploy Within 7 Months of Signing

TA0609062793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir says the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Gaza and Jericho is to be completed seven months after the signing of the agreement. Savir, who headed Israel's delegation to the Oslo talks with the PLO, was addressing a conference of the Israel Conference on Foreign Relations in Jerusalem last night. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] [Essing] Uri Savir, who led Israel's team to the secret PLO talks in Oslo had just arrived home after his historic diplomatic mission abroad. He disclosed that the IDF's redeployment is to be completed within seven months of the signing of the agreement with the PLO:

[Savir, in progress]...in the Gaza-Jericho area, where seven months after the signature Israel will have completed—if everything goes right, according to the declaration of principles—its redeployment of forces in Gaza and Jericho and will have transferred the different powers, authorities, to the Palestinians to run their own lives in these two areas.

[Essing] And Savir also said that Israel has actually achieved better security arrangements than those in the Camp David accords:

[Savir] We are very satisfied that security interests of Israel are well taken care of by leaving the issue of external security out of the jurisdiction, by leaving overall security for Israelis out of jurisdiction, and by making redeployment an Israeli decision and not a decision between the two sides. In other words, in our analysis we are better off on security in this agreement than in the Camp David agreements.

[Essing] The diplomat revealed that the clock will start ticking on the five years for completing the final status negotiations with the beginning of the IDF's redeployment. Nine months is the target date for electing the Palestinian autonomous council. But what of the PLO's delay in renouncing terrorism and the PLO Covenant? Savir said that contacts were continuing, but it was now up to Yasir 'Arafat to deliver the goods. When asked about reports that it might take the PLO another three weeks to hammer out its acceptance, Savir replied: Don't believe all you hear from sources on both the Palestinian and Israeli sides. [end recording]

Rabin Approves Establishment of Civil Guard Stations

TA0509201293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today approved the establishment of civil guard stations in the

Jewish settlements in the territories. The request was submitted many months ago by Police Minister Moshe Shahal, but until now Mr. Rabin opposed it. Now, apparently due to the imminent inception of autonomy in the territories, Mr. Rabin acquiesced to Shahal's request.

The civil guard stations will be established only next to police stations in the big Jewish settlements and their operation will be limited to the area of the settlements. Their power will also be limited, in order to prevent deviations in various issues, such as detentions.

Shahal on Security in Settlements

TA0609063893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal has informed the heads of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlers council that Civil Guard bases will be set up in several Jewish settlements in the territories. The bases will be established in Ari'el, Giv'at Ze'ev, Ma'ale Efrayim, the Qatif Bloc, and Ma'ale Adumim. The police minister says the establishment of Palestinian autonomy should improve security for the Jewish settlers in the territories, not the reverse. Shahal added that the government could not accept the settlers' proposal for autonomy, because Israel and the PLO had agreed that the declaration of principles could not be changed. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Shahal] It is our responsibility. The Israeli Government will supply and assure the security of Israeli civilians and the settlements, and it will be in our jurisdiction during the interim period. This is what I have to say, and I believe they are entitled to hear that from an official representative of the government.

[Katzenell] But even under the present situation, when the Israel Army, police, and security services control all the territory, from time to time there are cases of murder in which settlers are victims. How can you assure them that these cases will not increase in number when some of the territory is handed over to the Palestinians under a brand new, inexperienced Palestinian police force?

[Shahal] Well, first of all we hope and believe that we are going to a better situation than it is today. Secondly, the Palestinians will have a mutual interest to have stability and to promote security, and it is in their best interest to start and to have and to prove that, during the interim period, the security between the Israelis and the Palestinians will be better than it is today. That is the main purpose of trying to have the peace process. [end recording]

Four Iraqis Cross Border From Jordan

TA0409201693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Four Iraqi citizens entered Israeli territory from Jordan, south of al-Hammah, this afternoon. The four wore plain clothes and were unarmed. They intended to turn themselves in to the authorities. After cutting the border fence, they were trapped in a minefield. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Jordanian Army patrols arrived at the site, and the four went on crossing the field and entered Israeli territory.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv has learned that during their interrogation the four said that they had worked in Jordan for six months, and when their working permits expired, they chose to come to Israel and not to return to Iraq.

Al-Majali: Jordan Ready To Block West Bank Exodus

JN0309155993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has affirmed that Jordan is not obliged to accept anything that others agree upon without its knowledge. In an interview with AFP, Dr. al-Majali also asserted that Jordan was not aware of the details of the Israeli-Palestinian accord. He pointed out that Jordan can only say that the Palestinians are free in their negotiations and that no one has custody over them.

Dr. al-Majali regretted the level of coordination between Jordan and the PLO, saying coordination is a duty and that Jordan sticks to it. He added that there are complicated issues which should be discussed with the Palestinian side to avoid making mistakes that harm the two parties.

The prime minister said the Palestinian-Israeli accord is not detrimental to Jordan. On the contrary, it will provide a chance for the return of Palestinian refugees of 1967 and later.

He added he disagrees with those who say the agreement will create an alternative homeland for the Palestinians in Jordan. He said Jordan will not hesitate to take all necessary measures to impose stricter control on the two bridges that link the kingdom with the occupied West Bank, to prevent a Palestinian mass exodus toward Jordan.

King, 'Arafat Confer on Palestinian Decision

JN0309171693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] During a telephone conversation today, His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat exchanged views on current Arab issues in light of recent political developments.

His Majesty King Husayn asserted to the Palestinian president the right of the Palestinians to make independent decisions that satisfy their ambitions and serve their rights.

King Answers Reporters' Questions on Gaza-Jericho

English-Language Press Conference

JN0409125893 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1122 GMT 4 Sep 93

["Text" of news conference by King Husayn of Jordan at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 4 September—recorded]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, you are very welcome here today. I didn't realize that many of you wanted to see me during these most interesting times of speculation and promise, and I am very happy to be able to respond to your questions. So, let's go.

[Maha al-Sha'ir, Jordan Television reporter] Your Majesty: You called on Arab leaders to hold a meeting to discuss the future of the Palestinian state and the future of the peace talks. Have you received any feedback from Arab leaders?

[Husayn] The call for an Arab summit has always been, in my view, necessary to look into the conditions of the Arab world and in particular following many many events that have occurred and have impacted on the entire region. I haven't received any responses so far, but if the reference is to the recent developments regarding the peace process, then I'd like to say here that it has always been very clear to all of us that once something tangible is there, once something has occurred, then we return to the Arab summit to hopefully approve and bless or to discuss and debate or in any event offer whatever support is needed from the summit. So, I suppose that this is the case at this moment, but there is a need obviously for us and the Arab world, too, to meet as rapidly as possible at the level of the summit, and I hope this will occur before too long.

[Unidentified reporter] Your Majesty: Are you worried about the role, about Jordan's future role after this Palestinian-Israeli accord, and what specific role do you see for Jordan and the West Bank, and specifically Jerusalem?

[Husayn] Maybe I should now elaborate a little bit about developments for the last 48 hours. I would like to go back to the Rabat summit in 1974 and to state that, as of then, we adopted a policy following the unanimous summit decision to recognize and support the Palestinian Liberation Organization as a sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine, and at the same time to afford them every support that we could in fulfilling the tremendous duties to recover Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil and for the establishment of a just and durable peace based on Security Council Resolution 242 and 338, and obviously dealing with the question of Palestinian rights. Therefore, we, within this context, helped when our help was required to provide an umbrella for a Palestinian delegation to go alongside the Jordanian one, to deal with the reponsibilities that they both had respectively, the Jordanians being in full support of the Palestinians and within the context of the peace process ongoing and including all states in the area immediately concerned. That's on one level. On the other level, obviously, the multilaterals expand the circle of participants and interested parties within the region and within the world. Yesterday I received what I might have expected to receive a little earlier from the Palestinian leadership and President 'Arafat—a complete package of all that has been reached so far and in detail. Up to then we were dealing with the problem as we saw it unfold or with the suggestions as to what was agreed upon or otherwise in the media. I've read it very thoroughly and I can only repeat what I said two days ago that our position is one of full support to the Palestinian independent position and to the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine. I characterized the movement at that time as reflecting courage. I believe it is reflecting a sense of

responsibility towards our brethren and our people in the occupied territories and Palestinians everywhere and towards all concerned in this conflict that has lasted for far too long, and courage, may be, on both sides in terms of what has been achieved.

I would like to correct any impression that you may have. This could not be described as a Gaza-Jericho option, but Gaza-Jericho as far as I am concerned right now, whatever I have in the way of knowledge, is part of a process leading to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, and obviously 338 deals with the need to negotiate to arrive at the implementation of the said resolution. And so I will only reemphasize our full support for the body and its leadership that has been recognized by us in the seventies as a result of an Arab summit decision and the will of the Palestinian people, and I suppose if I did not have the details before now, so did many others, and may be they were as confused or may be upset with the form, not with the substance in terms of the result, and in any event as far as I am concerned, I was only concerned as to how to answer when I didn't know exactly what was happening. Now this has happened. I am aware of the picture to the fullest possible extent, I suppose, at this moment. I believe it's a very serious movement forward and I would hope and pray that our Palestinian family wherever they are will demonstrate unity to enable positive progress towards what we have all committed to—a just and lasting peace in this region.

[Unidentified reporter] Your Majesty: Does that mean that you're saying that you're quite satisfied with what you've read since yesterday in the sense that it does serve the purpose of the final solution? And another question: How does this affect the planned elections in Jordan, supposing that the 800,000 refugees and displaced persons can go back, and how does it affect the areas that the Palestinian refugee and displaced person camps are on right now? Thank you.

[Husayn] I can only say after all the years that have passed, all the missed opportunities, all the changes in the world, the struggle, the strife, the blood that has been shed, the broken bones, the suffering of people, I believe that what I have received suggests to me that this is a very serious comprehensive attempt on both sides involved in this negotiation to move forward towards the establishment of a just and durable peace. And so, we, as we have always said, have no right to either criticize or otherwise. We have a right to continue on a path that we have chosen all along and that is of full support to the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine and to the hopes and aspirations of the people of Palestine in the occupied territories and everywhere else. As regards the elections in Jordan, there is nothing new at this stage that I can add. Jordanians are members of one family regardless of their origins and we hope that the elections will take place at the appointed time to reflect our determination to preserve and build on democracy, pluralism, and respect for human rights. And we hope that it will be an example to others in the way it is conducted, reflecting also the sense of responsibility of the Jordanian citizen at this stage in terms of the critical role and position of trying to create something new in this area and to live up to all the responsibilities that are before us. Regarding the future, well obviously there are some suggestions. We initially may have misinterpreted some of the suggestions as we heard them from the media regarding a Jordanian role that had already been agreed upon. But I understand that the intention is to invite Jordan in the areas that are of importance, as a deal with the human dimension, as a deal with the other problems, and particularly as regards the people who moved out as a result of the 1967 disaster and since. So, this is perfectly alright. It is an invitation and obviously there are subjects that are of great interest to us and we will address them as we do in the future when they come up.

One last item that might be of interest to you regarding the umbrella. The umbrella was provided to help the Palestinian delegation to represent the people of Palestine regarding their fate and their future and their hopes and aspirations and their rights. Once and when mutual recognition occurs, and I believe that this is possible, between the Israelis and Palestinians, then probably there would be no need any more for this umbrella to continue to be there. And Jordan will continue in the peace process, representing itself and supporting the Palestinian side to the best of its ability. You may ask about the agenda, and again let me specify agenda. Well, an agenda has been worked out as to the topics and subjects that have to be discussed and addressed in the context of searching for a permanent regional peace here based on justice, peace that will last and the future generations can enjoy as it affects Jordan and Israel. We did not ratify this agenda and we kept the ratification of the agenda, which is again the titles that have to be expounded upon and discussed until such time as we saw some real progress on the Palestinian track. After we see this and when we are satisfied that things are moving in the right direction, which I hope will be a matter of time, then we will look after our own responsibilities towards ourselves and towards the future, while fully supporting the Palestinians in every way we can.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct] that the bridges should be closed as a reaction to the agreement between the PLO and the Israeli Government. What is your position concerning this suggestion?

[Husayn] I suppose that opinions in Jordan, which is a free country, and in the area, following so many years of struggle that has weighed very heavily on the minds and hearts of everyone, will vary, particularly when they are not fully aware of exactly what the picture is, and that this is a beginning. But at the same time, that all other matters are not omitted or forgotten, and will be addressed. So I can answer categorically right now that there is no plan to close any bridges, and I hope there will never be a reason for that.

[Unidentified reporter] Your majesty, the Israeli prime minister suggested Wednesday that this Israeli-Palestinian agreement nay lead to an Israeli-Palestinian federation rather than Palestinian-Jordanian federation or confederation. Now. in view of the length of services between Israel and the occupied territories that already exist in terms of electricity and water, etc., do you think that things may push themselves, in terms of Israeli-Palestinian normalization, in that direction, rather the direction that everybody expected? What is your opinion on that?

[Husayn] I would like to take things at face value, and I would like to say that I have no worry or concern that the moment is that of embarking on a genuine attempt to achieve a comprehensive peace in this area. And, obviously, the Palestinian cause and case is the root cause of instability in terms of the Palestinian-Israeli issue, and the Arab one beyond that. So, I believe there will be positive movement in all fronts, but as far as the confederation or federation, or any other name that you may call regarding Jordan and Palestine, we have always been very, very clear that this can only be a matter of discussion and choice when people are able to exercise their rights freely to decide what the future relationship should be. It is no secret that in the past, regrettably, over many many years, there has been suspicion of Jordan and its wishes and desires, and maybe, ambitions. Our ambition has always been one, and that is to help the people of Palestine regain their rights on their legitimate soil. We are the closest to them of any of our Arab brethren by virtue of fact, by virtue of experience, by virtue of that we have passed through. But when they are able to exercise their rights to determine their future freely, in terms of the relations with us, we will certainly look at it, and I am sure that the ties will be built upon that have lasted over so many years, regardless of the negative aspects that might have affected our relations. And it will be a matter of a free choice for the Palestinians with Jordanians at that time. After then, here in Jordan, we are one family regardless of our origins, and we have a tremendous challenge ahead of us to make of this country an example to others.

[Unidentified reporter] Your majesty, while Jordan was creating joint committees with the Palestinians two months ago, the PLO was secretly negotiating with Israel. What is going to be the fate of these committees? And, if I may ask, from what you heard from Chairman 'Arafat yesterday about the refugees, they are talking about 700,000 refugees of 1967. What about the other refugees? What will be their fate?

[Husayn] I honestly don't have all the answers, nor do I believe that President 'Arafat has them, or anybody at the moment. But I can tell you that the foundations, the tracks to deal with every aspect of the problem, are there. And, any solution will, obviously, have to address the rights of all in regard to the future if there is to be the kind of peace that will, hopefully, be there and will last and will give everybody in this entire region an opportunity to move, and move ahead. So, regarding the committees, I suppose they'll have to be reshaped to deal with the new realities. And, if I didn't have all the details because of considerations of concern for the security of the process, well, I suppose I cannot be any different to many Palestinians who didn't know about it, and many Israelis, on the other hand. So, in any event, there has been, I believe, something pretty substantial that has happened, or is in the process of happening, and let's hope it is for the best.

[Unidentified reporter] Your majesty, are you satisfied with the American role that was played in shaping this Israeli-PLO agreement? And, if so, do you believe that they were fair to Jordan in terms of being, in light of the relations that Jordan has with the United States?

[Husayn] I have the impression that the American Administration was not fully aware, either, of the agreement or the details of it. This was a message that was relayed to me, and I will take it at that.

[Unidentified reporter] Your majesty, one of your major concerns, as far as I understood, was the fact that the fate of Jerusalem would only be discussed after a three-year transitional period. Does this reservation, or concern, still stand?

[Husayn] Jerusalem will continue to be a concern to us and I believe that unless a solution is found where the rights of all the followers of the three great monotheistic religions are preserved in terms of their sovereignty over their holy places, that—in that context, conceivably, Jerusalem can become the symbol and essence of peace for all times to come—that we will not have a solution.

In the past, I have spoken many times of the possibility of Jerusalem being the meeting place, the place where both people come together in a context of peace. I suppose all the details have to be worked out, but Jerusalem is obviously a very, very important element in the whole equation. And let us hope that God, too, [who] in his wisdom made Jerusalem that important to the followers of these three great monotheistic religions, maybe will help us all to fulfill what I have always believed is his will—that we learn to live with each other in tolerance and respect of each other—and that Jerusalem becomes the essence in the symbol of peace between those who believe in God.

[Unidentified reporter] Jordan is very unhappy with the level of coordination among the Arab partners in the peace talks. Do you have any indications after the PLO-Israeli agreement that this is going to change the level of coordination?

[Husayn] I hope that this will happen in the coming period. I believe it is a must. But I suppose the whole situation has changed. I mean there are going to be specific problems to be addressed by parties as they relate to them, and there are other problems that have to be addressed in the multilaterals. Remember, we went to the multilaterals. We accepted to go to the multilaterals with the idea that not only the parties [word indistinct]

concerned but the region and the world should be involved in sharing their responsibilities towards this area and its future in a context of peace. This was not the view of many, but it certainly was ours. And, again, this is an area that hopefully will be activated to the fullest possible extent to ensure that the recovery from where we are to the point where people secure their rights and enjoy their rights to live in peace and security with dignity, with the rights recovered, would be a rapid and a smooth one.

[Unidentified reporter] In light of the new Palestinian-Israeli accord, do you see any need for any changes in the draft Jordanian agenda with Israel?

[Husayn, interrupting] In the what?

[Unidentified reporter] Do you see any need for changing the draft agenda between Jordan and Israel? And, after looking at the details of the agreement, do you think it gives satisfactory answers as to the final solution and the final status of the occupied territories? Thank you.

[Husayn] Sir, I referred earlier to the fact that the struggle has been a long one and that we have, tragically now, the ability to look back and look forward. If we look back, we look at many many lost opportunities. If we look forward, we look forward to a hope that things will change out of a realization of people on either side of the divide that this simply cannot continue, wars and with peace. Struggles cannot continue indefinitely with the toll that has to be given in human life and in misery indefinitely. So, this is a last chance. I did say that before, and I believe it is. So let us hope that we are on the threshold of a fresh beginning. As regards the agenda, I do not think there will be much that requires changing. The subjects are well known, and obviously, they will be discussed at the appropriate time, probably soon.

[Unidentified reporter] Can you tell us what has been agreed, having seen the documents now, about the 700,000 or 800,000 1967 refugees? Do they have the right to go back to Jericho, Gaza, the West Bank? What is their position?

[Husayn] This is, as far as I can tell, a subject that will definitely be addressed very rapidly, and this is one of the areas where Jordan is invited to be, obviously, a party to the discussions in that regard and to hopefully arrive at a satisfactory conclusion.

[Reporter] Nothing has been agreed so far, that you are aware of?

[Husayn] No.

[Reporter] Your majesty, [words indistinct] confusion over what Jordan wants in its own role to the West Bank. What kind of sovereignty, for instance, would you like to see Jordan have over Jerusalem?

[Husayn] You know, I don't want to open old wounds. But it is a historic fact that when the union existed between the two banks, almost no Arab state recognized it, or our sovereignty over Jerusalem. And the Arab attitude at that time, as well as that of the international community, with the exception of three states in the whole world, was that of moving towards some form of internationalization of the issue. We believe that sovereignty over the holy places has to return to those who revere these places and who hold them in their hearts. As far as we're concerned, Arab Jerusalem pre-'67 is occupied territory. In a context of peace, we've never visualized a city divided again. But the question now is the question of Arab rights over Arab occupied territories in the future. I hope this will be resolved in the times ahead in a manner that can make Jerusalem the essence or the symbol of peace between the followers of the three great monotheistic religions. I don't have a blueprint or a plan that I can suggest, but I can suggest the essentials, and that is, that there is no way by which these holy places can be under the influence or the control of one side to this conflict.

[Unidentified reporter] Back in 1974 in Rabat, you held Arab leaders responsible for their decision of shifting responsibilities, and you said then that the final judgment will be for history. Twenty years later, do you believe that the course of events will have led to a better eventuality, had Arab leaders listened to your standpoint then?

[Husayn] I don't know, sir, and I believe that probably all of us will be judged long after we are gone by generations to come.

Yesterday, I spent my whole day alone, thinking, going back over the experiences of 40 years, praying to God for guidance. And beyond anything, one came to the conclusion that—if you remember the period of Rabat, in fact, the situation in our region almost up to now, and the Palestinian decision, or the decision of the Palestinian leadership to venture into the unknown with courage at this point in time—our problem has always been that there were too many heads, too many cooks—people who are close to the problem and people who are far from it; people who had an orientation towards this or the other power in the world; people who didn't understand, people who understood. And so it was always almost impossible, really, to deal with a problem collectively, in a meaningful way. I believe that this is probably an explanation of why many more people who were not aware, including myself, of the process that has led, almost, to the agreement right now, in the ratification of an agreement, between Israel and the Palestinian leadership. [sentence as heard] Because when you throw these issues about, depending on where one is, I suppose everyone has a different view and a different perspective and a different piece of advice to offer, and people don't get very far. This does not belittle the fact that—and I told President 'Arafat that I was really hurt not to be aware of what was happening, particularly since there was an umbrella that was meant to help the Palestinian side move with our support, but also implied some moral responsibility on our side. He did not send all the details

before I made this comment; they were already on their way, so I understand. I believe this period will be judged by generations to come.

[Unidentified reporter] Your majesty: [words indistinct] past few days were described as having, or creating, an atmosphere of mistrust among the four Arab parties involved in the peace process, due to the manner in which they were conducted. Do you think this will cast a shadow over the peace talks themselves and on future Jordanian-Palestinian relations?

[Husayn] I certainly believe that they will not cast any shadow on the Jordanian-Palestinian relations, nor do I believe that there is any reason why it should, in regard to the other Arab partners involved in the process. In fact, as you well know, we all, to a degree or another, were waiting to see what happened on the central issue, the Palestinian problem, and we're supportive of Palestinians and all efforts to get a breakthrough there. Now that this has happened, I believe that we are facing a new situation. But in the final analysis, I would like to suggest that what we are working for is also a comprehensive settlement and a comprehensive peace.

[Unidentified reporter] There are many voices right now in the Arab world which are vehemently opposed to the Gaza-Jericho proposal. What would be Jordan's stand vis-a-vis those voices which have even gone so far as to say they will work against the implementation of that proposal?

[Husayn] I would like to say here what I have already, I believe, said, that the PLO—the Palestinian leadership—is the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine. And we have accepted that for years and years, and we are not about to change it. And I hope that within the Palestinian dimension, as well, people will come together more than at any time in the past, because it is important for them to do so, to achieve their objectives and ours in securing Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil and peace for all concerned in this tragedy that has taken so much and caused so much in the way of suffering over so many years.

[Unidentified reporter] You said earlier that this is the last chance for peace. What happens if, for some reason, there is no agreement between the PLO and Israel, or if the peace process stops with the Gaza-Jericho deal?

[Husayn] From what I am aware of, it is not going to stop with the Gaza-Jericho deal. There are already plans to deal with every other aspect. It's a question of does one expect a magic wand to be waved and suddenly all the territory is returned and peace is established based on that, or is it a process of movement between all concerned to create an atmosphere and move and establish peace. And I don't personally believe that a magic wand is available to be waved to produce immediately all that everybody wants in the way of answers or expectations. But to both sides to this conflict I believe that this is a chance and it could well be... [changes thought] it is the last chance, there is no other way to put it.

[Unidentified reporter] Are you concerned at all that [words indistinct] once again raise the specter of what they used to call the Jordanian option, and when they say that whatever Palestinian entity may emerge from Gaza, Jericho, and parts of the rest of the West Bank should be federated to Jordan, thus turning Jordan into Palestine?

[Husayn] I am not concerned about that at all, sir. I think that Jordan is Jordan, and it's home of all its people, regardless of their origins, and Jordan is there. And, I hope that in the future the Palestinians will secure their rights on their soil and then we will deal with the question of our relations and the choice of people as to how they should be. But, in the meantime, we will be working together to achieve the objectives that are dear to them and which we support, and to see the establishment of a just and durable peace in this region.

[Unidentified reporter] Your majesty, is Jordan still committed, (?herself), to not to sign a unilateral agreement and to wait for the other parties to achieve some goals?

[Husayn] Jordan is looking at things at this moment in the following way: After the Government of Israel and the Palestinian leadership, the PLO, recognize each other, if this is what is in the minds of all, and establish the mechanism for direct dialogue to implement an agreement and to move to implement every aspect of it, then there is no reason to continue to have an umbrella that was required and was needed to enable the Palestinians to get there in the first place. And, as far as we are concerned, then we will be dealing with other problems affecting us directly here in Jordan, as well as coordinating and supporting in every way we can the Palestinian effort and the effort of all to achieve peace in this region. We also have many interrelated problems that we will have to discuss, that will have to be addressed, as well. But, if it is a question of a final ratification of a peace treaty, this, I have said, and I will say again, is something we seek in the context of a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli problem and with all the parties concerned on the Arab side as well as Israel.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct] the region may have seen a breakthrough to peace. Now the immediate effects may will be, as often in the past, a period of instability. And it is perfectly possible to envisage now in the West Bank and Gaza, a period of strife between PLO and Hamas, for example. Is that a concern of yours, and [word indistinct] what steps do you take to stop its spilling over here?

[Husayn] I am concerned, in a sense, and I will plead with everybody to think very very clearly, and to control their emotions and their feelings, and to look forward. But as far as I am concerned, the body I am dealing with, and I have been dealing with, and so has Jordan, and so has the Arab world, and the world, is the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine. I hope and pray that the Palestinians will come together at this time in the interest of future generations and interest of all of them,

and not show any division or tendency to fragment at this very very crucial time, after such a long struggle.

[Unidentified reporter] Your majesty, [words indistinct] among the Jordanians that Jordan will become marginalized as a result of the Israeli-Palestinian accord. Is that a legitimate concern, or can you tell your people that this accord is good for them as well?

[husayn] I don't think that Jordan can be marginalized. And, in fact, Jordan has done more, regardless of whether this has been recognized or otherwise, to keep the cause of Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil alive, to open the way for the Palestinians to assume their responsibilities in representing themselves, to move toward the multilaterals. What, beyond that, Jordan has always struggled, and its history is a very rich one. This is as it relates to the past, but in regard to the future, Jordan is there, solid with the determination of its people, to make of it an example of a country that is moving ahead, and the people that have been through so much, but who have chosen democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights. And, incidentally, over the Palestinian issue and the peace process, we are making it abundantly clear that we did not go to Madrid except after a consensus here in Jordan. This was a national decision, this was not that of a government or an individual. We knew exactly what our responsibilities were, we took that choice, and we stick to it.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] would Jordan and the Arab countries recognize Israel, and, if yes, when?

[Husayn] I believe that Jordan did so, and so did all the Arab countries when they accepted Security Council Resolution 242. Now what the future brings is obviously that if we are establishing a just and durable peace in this region... [changes thought] and I may remind you here, too, also, that the PLO was unable to recognize the famous Security Council Resolution 242 until we brought about the legal administrative disengagement with the West Bank. Up to then, the PLO would not wish to do that. It did so after that. And so this is added to many contributions that Jordan might have made to the cause of peace. Palestinians wanted to have their say regarding their rights, regarding their cause, regarding their future, and nobody elses. And ours has been a position of support to them. And now that they are moving we will continue to support them.

[Unidentified reporter] Your majesty, some reports from Egypt are talking of President Mubarak's proposition for a meeting between yourself, President al-Asad, 'Arafat, and the Lebanese president in order to better coordinate the next step. Do you favor such a meeting to an Arab summit, or do you think it has to be an Arab summit?

[Husayn] I would welcome, always, any meeting at any level, certainly at the level of the summit with our brethren, whenever an invitation is there. And we'd have no opposition to that at all; we'd welcome it.

[Unidentified reporter] Your majesty, in view of the fact that the Palestinian entity, or the self-rule authority, will have very little financing of its own, has Jordan given any serious thought to the possibility of where its economic role will come in at an immediate stage? Thank you.

[Husayn] I believe here, sir, that again the total picture that, at least, I have been exposed to is probably more than you have. And I believe that there is a tendency and a determination among those concerned to move towards the multilaterals and towards getting the world to be involved in the question of a complete recovery in this entire region. So, in any event, this is where we stand right now, and I would not like to continue to have any probes into what I know or what I don't know. It is held with me as a trust until such time as it's announced. Maybe it is not to the fulfilment of everybody's dreams, but certainly, under the circumstances, it is at least a good start and a good beginning, and let's hope and pray that the result will be the establishment of a just and durable and comprehensive peace in this region once and for all.

Thank you very, very much, indeed, all my friends who've asked me in English.

Arabic-Language Press Conference

JN0409164193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1122 GMT 4 Sep 93

["Recording" of news conference by King Husayn of Jordan at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 4 September; all reporters unidentified unless otherwise indicated]

[Text] [Reporter] Your majesty, thank you. What is the Jordanian position on the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement? Do you think the major obstacle standing on the Jordanian track that prevents the signing of a Jordanian-Israeli agreement has been removed? Also, if you allow me, your majesty, there is a concern that the vision in the future might be blurred. Your majesty, you have a strong connection to Jerusalem. Is the future of Jerusalem clear to you?

[Husayn] Sir, as far as the situation which you have asked about is concerned, I think I have answered a similar question a short while ago. The Jordanian position has always been supportive of Palestine, with its leadership, the PLO, which has been the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people as of the Rabat summit in 1974. We have provided the umbrella which took our brothers to the point in which they could exercise their right to defend the rights of our brothers and kinsfolk, the Palestinian people, on their national soil. When the point of signing the agreement between them is reached, then there may not be a need to continue to provide this umbrella.

I have said earlier that I received the details of what was agreed upon only yesterday. I believe there was some concern not to discuss the subject in public, in the light

of the contradictory and different views, on both the Palestinian and Arab levels. We have here a leadership that shouldered its responsibilities and proceeded with the matter to this point.

When the situation reaches the point where this agreement can be considered a viable one... [changes thought] the agreement is only a beginning. The subject is not the Gaza-Jericho option. Gaza and Jericho are the beginning of bigger things to come. There is a discussion of all aspects of the question that does not exclude Jerusalem, which is quite important.

As regards the Jordanian track, we have done the following: We provided the umbrella. We enabled the Palestinian brothers to exercise the rights they have always been demanding, that is, to tackle their own issues, defend their rights, and have the final say in their affairs. The agenda is only the headlines of very long subjects to be discussed. We have reached a formula for an agenda. But, we chose not to sign it or start discussion of these details until we see real progress on the Palestinian track. Then, and when the expected steps are taken, the reason for the presence of the umbrella will not be there any more. But, the coordination with, and support of, the Palestinian brothers will continue. There are many interrelated problems, concerning people, those who left the land in the past, waters, environment, economy, scores of other issues, and everything. These subjects will be discussed in the future within the context of a rational, logical formula which can be materialized.

Once again, the long-term objective, which we seek and to which we are committed, is a comprehensive solution to this problem. I recall here, among other things, the first meeting I had with the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir after the 1967 disaster when he pleaded that we should do anything and everything possible to rescue the West Bank and Gaza.

I hope God is contented with what I have tried to do over the past period. I remember we were and still are committed to reaching a comprehensive solution. In other words, there should be no unilateral action. Only then, will we discuss our affairs and situation regarding the agenda and the topics related to Jordan. But we expect and hope for progress on all the other tracks toward a comprehensive peace among all parties involved in this dispute.

[Reporter] Sir, if we are allowed to say the Camp David accords achieved something regarding the occupied territories, we can say they defined the transitional period regarding the Israeli occupation of them, as well as the empowerment of the Palestinians. But the recent agreement, which will be signed by the PLO and Israel soon, is still obscure in terms of the transitional period. Have you talked to President 'Arafat on this issue during your phone conversation yesterday? The second question, if your majesty allows me, is about the Islamic Action Front's recent decision to participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections. Very regrettably, some members of the front said there was a bargain between the government and the front over participation in these elections?

[Husayn] By God, he deserves a slap, I believe, for this conclusion that indicates lack of intelligence. I do not know who he is. There are no bargains with any side. There is still room for anyone. I hope they will assume their responsibilities and reflect the dignity of belonging to this country and this march, as well as their concern about this country's interests and this march. There is no need for slogans and for talk that does not reflect the true belonging. We are going ahead. We respect the Constitution, as well as our policy that has been crystallized by the National Charter. We concentrate on democracy, which some call shura. Shura and democracy are the same. Call it whatever you like. Then we have human rights and political pluralism. We in this country are one family, regardless of origins.

Regarding your first question, sir, how can our brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, give me all the details if he did not do that during our meetings? He, however, has sent me copies of all the points which have been agreed upon. In fact, after carefully considering the situation, I can only hope it will turn out to be good. Searching for and talking about deals, as well as theorization, are part of our life in this country. It seems to me that it is also the same in and outside the Arab world.

I believe, and I greatly hope, that what has happened, and will happen in the future, is a beginning to address all important issues, including, naturally, Jerusalem, in view of its importance for all of us. At the same time, it is a brave thing to assume responsibility at this difficult time for future generations and for the suffering of our kinsmen and brothers in the occupied territories and everywhere. We pray to God to grant us success.

[Reporter] From what we have heard about the measures so far, agreements are moving toward the completion of a comprehensive withdrawal. From our experience in 11 rounds of the Madrid negotiations, there must be pressure cards to complete the next stages. Don't you believe there is legitimate concern when the Israelis are gaining access to the Arab world in economic and other issues, while Arab and Israeli negotiators in the future are left without pressure cards?

[Husayn] Sir, this question might open wounds. The answer is clear. Can we, or can anyone of us, say he is satisfied with the status of Arab relations? The answer is no. What can we do to change the picture? The world has changed. Its picture has greatly changed. Our Arab world is in the situation we are now experiencing. The question of peace was raised. The Palestinian side, our brothers and kinsmen, whom we have always supported, so they could attain their rights on their national soil, found an opportunity—perhaps we have played a major role in providing this opportunity—to address their responsibilities and desires and raise the Palestine question in an appropriate manner. We support them in this effort. Negotiation is not a crime. You know what your right is

and you defend it; escaping from this right might be proof of weakness or unclear thinking. Perhaps if we managed, and if the Palestinian side in particular managed, to reach a situation that heralds the attainment of their goals and objectives and saving their rights—and the situation also applies to the Arab negotiator, whoever he might be—under the current circumstances, then this would be in fact a great achievement, no less worthwhile than winning any battle in which all circumstances are conducive to success.

I believe that, to the best of its ability, the international community now more that any time in the past wants to wind down the problems that put its stability and security at risk. This might help. On the other side—Israel's side—perhaps those who are fighting the idea of movement are deploying force and ideology. However, there seems to be those who think this is the last chance, that it is time things were handled in a way that brings stability and a just peace acceptable to and sustainable by future generations. I have no idea where things will get us. However, with all honesty, there is the majority that may keep theorizing and, in the meantime, every day we hear and read about many men and women being killed in Palestine. We continue to match Arab and Israeli casualty figures. These are our kinsfolk, our brothers, and our sons. I will not take a stand based on the fact that I was not consulted or put in the picture of what happened. There are others who share my sentiments. I have in my mind the picture of a smile dancing on the lips of a child living under true peace and leading a normal life. A state of affairs may develop under which a man who has lost a son or brother, or a woman who has lost a loved one, will come to feel that what has been achieved is not pointless. They may come to be convinced that a reasonable result has been reached. I, therefore, appeal to all, and to my brothers in the large Palestinian family everywhere, not to let themselves be swayed by emotion, but by reason. I call upon them to get together and reach an understanding and stand side by side so that what everybody is after comes to pass, God willing.

[Reporter] Your majesty, in a television interview two days ago, you spoke with sadness about the so-called Palestinian-Israeli accord. Does the information to which you have had access over the past two days lead you to think that the agreement, assuming it will be signed, will mark the beginning of a departure from the notion of the comprehensive solution agreed upon by all the Arab parties, since the peace process kicked off?

[Husayn] No, sir. I do not think this is the case. This is because all parties agreed in Rabat and afterward to enable the PLO to exercise its right to represent the Palestinian Arab people. The PLO was accorded the status of the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. We said then, as we do now, that this does not put us outside the framework of action nor relieve us from the responsibility of backing our brothers and kinsfolk in Palestine to the best of our ability as they strive to attain their right to their national soil.

True, I was inconvenienced because I was not in the picture of what happened. Yesterday, my brothers sent me a complete file of what happened. I think that what we had heard from here and there, what had been reported by news agencies or the press, is now superseded. It marks a beginning. God willing, things will turn out well.

It is considered a beginning, and God willing, the results will be good. As for the subject of unilateral steps, I think when we say a beginning this means work will continue for a very long period of time in order to reach the required result. Therefore, God willing, it will be good, and God willing, what we are committed to will be realized. I mentioned my talk with a brother we supported at a difficult juncture. We agreed there are no unilateral steps. We adhered to that so far and have not changed. I do not think anybody seeking a just and comprehensive solution wants to take unilateral steps. God willing, all elements will be integrated in the future and we will reach the peace that will be our gift to the coming generations so they will live a better life than we have lived so far.

[Reporter] You visited Damascus a few days ago. Would you speak to us about the nature of the talks with the Syrian president, and the position of the Syrian president and government on what is going on at present concerning the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Husayn] At every stage, I leave it to my brothers to express what they feel, but I can say I was very satisfied with the visit and its results. I do not say our positions are close, I say we have the same position. As for our brothers in Syria, under all circumstances and conditions, if we differ, we differ in opinions. I do not want to give the impression that we differed on something this time, at all. But, we have always held contacts and dialogue. In such a crucial stage, we thought we should contact each other.

A contact was conducted, then, between myself and the Lebanese prime minister, who spoke to me over the telephone. He will visit us soon. We are also waiting for the visit of his excellency the Lebanese president, who accepted the invitation to visit Jordan.

The Arab contacts, particularly at this stage and within the chances available to conduct such contacts, are something important and basic.

[Reporter] Your majesty, forgive me if the question increases pain, but everyone is asking, and no one has an answer, so far. Probably, his majesty the king received an answer from the Palestinian president. Was secrecy justified? If justified for some Arab parties, the Jordanian people find no justification—not for Jordan, not for you, and not for the joint delegation. What was President 'Arafat's reply to your question about this?

[Husayn] I conveyed my feelings to him. I think we have surpassed this stage, particularly after they sent all the details, as I said, before we spoke together.

[Reporter] Your majesty, all statements made by the Palestinian leadership so far emphasize the importance of the future relationship with Jordan. Is this enough for you? Or, do you think there is still something that has not been tackled about the future relations, especially since you spoke recently about confederation or federation, or whatever we call it. This led to an impression that the solution will begin with Jordan First, and not Gaza-Jericho First?

[Husayn] No, no, there is no solution. We told you this question is fully linked to...[changes thought] Sir, praise be to God, Jordan is steadfast in the face of the challenges and dangers. It is playing its role and carrying out its duty in accordance with its capabilities and potentials, and in a manner that will be an honor for all Jordanians and keeps their heads high and not bowing to anybody except for almighty God. When our brothers, relatives, and loved ones practice their right on their national soil to choose what they want, then the sort of relationship, its nature, its name can be discussed. We are brothers, anyway.

[Reporter] Your majesty, with the Gaza-Jericho First draft agreement now on the table, some people in Jordan are alarmed by the prospect of emigration from Jericho, given the area's geography and the crossings. Are there any Jordanian apprehensions about emigrants driven by economic necessity rather than, if not by, coercion?

[Husayn] When you are not privy even to a minimum of facts, of course, there may be apprehensions and many questions may arise. However, having considered the situation, I do not see any danger to Jordan there. The Gaza-Jericho First may not be the right term to describe the situation. Gaza-Jericho is part of a larger picture, apparently taking in all the occupied Arab territories and founded on UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, as I pointed out. I am confident our kinsfolk, who have stood fast this long, will not leave their land. If anything, the possibility may arise for people to return to their land in the near future. In any case, such talk is premature. We are addressing the here and now.

[Reporter] Your majesty, here on the domestic scene, some writers and some quarters—as it has transpired over the past few days—do not seem to make a distinction between your majesty's inconvenience and anger, and thus compromise our cherished national unity, which your majesty underlines often enough. Such people began talking about how to divorce the Jordanians and Palestinians, in a way feared by all people of reason. What would your majesty say to such people?

[Husayn] I would say what I have always said. Here in Jordan, we are one family, regardless of where one comes from. Each one is entitled to ask and worry about the future. But, under no circumstances will I accept or tolerate any overstepping of the limits of asking questions, or any differences of opinion that hurt national unity or the dignity of any human being in this country. It is important that we should make a point of showing respect for opposing opinion and understanding what dialogue is about, that we make dialogue an integral element in our lives. Throughout my long career, I have never taken things personally or insisted that I have the last word in any argument. If that was the case, I wouldn't be on speaking terms with quite a few people. I may have my own opinion about some thing or other, and you may have yours. Then let us have a sober discussion of our differences. It would help if our discussion is based on hard facts. You may win me over to your opinion, and vice versa. In either case, we must remain friends and family living in the same house under one roof. If we call upon our Palestinian brothers in Palestine and throughout the Arab world to get together and come to an understanding—the Palestinians who chose the PLO as their sole and legitimate representative, and we went along with that choice—we may as well follow suit here in Jordan. It is not right to talk about this.

If I may, as an older brother, I'll put forward this opinion: Let us learn as we move forward. Later, you will keep it that way, when one of these days I am not around. I hope you will live up to the expectations held out for you. I do hope you will live up to the responsibilities. We have had our fill of accusations and insults that, over time, are bound to leave scars. We are talking about an issue of universal concern and interest. God willing, this nation and this united family will prosper as they act responsibly, courageously, and clearly, as I have already pointed out, thus reflecting mature thinking in how we handle things. As we cope with the dangers and challenges ahead of us, we must take care for what we do, and act not as conflicting factions working against one another. We will take the side of our brothers and kinsfolk, following the examples of the father of the Great Arab Revolt, who rests on the grounds of al-Aqsa Mosque, and 'Abdallah Bin al-Husayn, as well as your elder brother Husayn, as long as he lives. We take the side of Palestine, the rights of Palestine and those of its people. We shall continue to harbor hope that our kinsfolk and brothers will attain their rights on their national soil [words indistinct] at any rate we say what we think, since we are in a democracy. But there are limits to everything.

Please forgive me if I have detained you for too long. Thanks to all of you.

'New Era' in Relations With PLO Seen

JN0409092793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Sep 93 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has signalled the start of a new era in Jordanian-Palestinian relations by strongly indicating that the historic Israeli-Palestinian accord has in effect completed the process of Jordan's disengagement from Palestinian affairs which formally started in 1974 when the Arab states recognised the Palestine

Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In a television interview with prominent Lebanese journalist Ghassan Tuwayni, which was broadcast Thursday night, King Husayn appeared to draw a painful line between what the Palestinians, represented by the PLO, consider to be in their interests and Jordanian national interests in the light of the Israeli-Palestinian accord on autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

For while the King said that Jordan did not oppose the accord and in fact supported the Palestinian decision and to reach the agreement, he emphasised that Jordan will not accept any agreement or provisions to be imposed on it—a clear reference to the articles involving Jordan in the Israeli-Palestinian accord.

King Husayn's statement indicated that he was reluctantly accepting the accord—being what the Palestinians wanted—as part of a major decision to separate Jordan from negotiations on the future of the Palestinian people. Such decision will probably entail practical steps to realise this withdrawal including the separation of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and other practical steps to protect Jordan from any potential negative repercussions of the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian accord.

The King's decision, which does not seem to have crystalised fully yet, judging by the interview, is motivated by four factors:

—Jordan's concern about its interests and rejection of any agreement and provisions in any accord imposed on it by any party.

—What is viewed by Jordan as conceding to the PLO will as manifested in its policies and failure to closely coordinate with Jordan, to assert its independence.

—The King's strong reservations about any deal based on the concept of an interim phase that leaves the future of the Israeli- occupied territories and the Palestinian people and rights ambiguous.

—The King's resentment of PLO acceptance to postpone the discussion over the two sensitive issues of Jerusalem and the Israeli settlements, which he fears could compromise the status of the Holy City and jeopardise the final outcome of the negotiations.

King Husayn, however, kept the door open for considering a different and closer Jordanian-Palestinian relationship—including confederation—once Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories are free to express their will.

But till that day, and in the immediate future, the Monarch implied that Jordan will distance itself from Palestinian affairs focusing on protecting its own interests while respecting the will of the representatives of the Palestinian people, the PLO.

For while the King said that Jordan did not object to the Israeli-Palestinian accord, and Jordan and the Arab World support any Palestinian decision, he firmly stressed that the Kingdom would not accept any form of Jordanian-Palestinian relationship that was imposed by another party.

The King was alluding to provisions to the Israeli-Palestinian accord which involve links and coordination between the Israelis, the Palestinians and the Jordanians during the interim period, in different fields such as communications, and energy, which were reached without Jordanian consent.

Although he said that he did not know enough about the details to make a final verdict on the accord, he was clearly expressing concern about the Palestinians allowing Israel to determine the form of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

Yet the King kept the door open for further consultations with the PLO and at the same time strongly resented any Israeli influenced formulae.

In the lengthy interview the King avoided any explicit challenge to the PLO and its role while he tried to reconcile between reiterating respect for the independence of the Palestinian decision and Jordan's keenness to distance itself from any responsibility for concessions that were made in the Israeli-Palestinian accord.

His subtle and implicit style gave way to interpretations that Jordan is blessing the contents of the accord while a careful reading shows that it supports any Palestinian decision regardless of any reservations that it could harbour.

The King's statement signalled [a] shift from a relationship of an assumed "partnership" that has obviously failed so far to overcome the bitterness and suspicions of the past to that of two separate parties—at least in the immediate term whose decisions do not have to be interlinked.

The implied disengagement of Jordanian and Palestinian decisions, according to the interview, has not been determined by a Jordanian decision but a reaction to the PLO's attempt to assert its independence from Jordan.

"His Majesty was speaking as a concerned Arab leader rather than a party directly involved in determining the future of Palestine," said one Jordanian source who is familiar with King Husayn's thinking.

The practical implications of the new Jordanian approach are not clear yet. But, according to Jordanian sources, the King is still studying the situation and his top priority will be to protect Jordanian national and security interests.

But officials and analysts believe that Jordan's next step will depend, to a great extent on the next move by the PLO.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has obviously got the message conveyed by the King's interview and he called him by telephone from Tunis Friday.

Jordanian officials, and even some Palestinian officials, were critical of Mr. 'Arafat's consultations with Egypt, Morocco and Tunis in the last few days while ignoring Jordan, which many in both sides still firmly believes has an intertwined future with Palestine.

There was no official Palestinian reaction but the PLO leadership is expected to feel under pressure to try to improve coordination with Jordan, especially that it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to implement the Israeli-Palestinian accord or begin to discuss final status arrangements without Jordan.

Furthermore, there is more pressure than ever on Mr. 'Arafat from within the PLO, including from groups that until a few years ago had categorically rejected association with Jordan, to reach an understanding with King Husayn on a joint strategy and the form of the future relationship—away from Israeli, American on even Egyptian influence.

Since the outset of the Israeli-Arab talks 22 months ago, Jordan has been complaining publicly and privately about the lack of sufficient coordination between Jordan and the PLO and the Arab parties to the talks generally. Jordanian officials, have particularly been disconcerted by Mr. 'Arafat's constant close coordination with Egypt and apparent attempt to keep a distance from Jordan.

In the interview, King Husayn revealed that Mr. 'Arafat had actually notified him about the start of the secret negotiations with Israel, prior to the King's departure to Washington last June, and that on his last visit in August, the PLO chairman took him aside and told him that there was a sort of proposal involving a deal based on the establishment of early Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and Gaza Strip first.

But, according to the King, the Palestinian leader did not put him fully in the picture and did not consult with him before signing the draft agreement.

"We have not been in the picture...we were not aware of the details," the King said.

According to both Jordanian and PLO officials, Mr. 'Arafat's reliance on Egypt largely reflected his fear of what he perceives as Jordanian, and specifically Hashemite, threat and potential rivalry to speak on behalf of the Palestinians.

King Husayn, who is said to be fully aware and pained by Mr. 'Arafat's thinking that has roots in the turbulent history between Jordan and the organisation, sternly defended his family's role and refuted claims that they sought tutelage over the Palestinians.

In the interview the King put his brief account of the relationship between the Hashemites and Palestine, arguing that his family has always been attached and faithful to Palestine and refused to compromise on the status of Jerusalem and has not sought "patronage" of the Palestinian cause.

"Right from the very beginning, this family (the Hashemites) has always been committed to Palestine in terms of safeguarding Palestinian national rights on Palestinian land and to Jerusalem by protecting rights of the Muslims and the Christians and defending the city," the King stressed.

King Husayn invoked the memory of his great grandfather al-Sharif Husayn Bin-'Ali who was exiled by the British mandate authorities for refusing to compromise his goal of an independent unified Arab World and a free Palestine.

"Husayn the First was the first to confront those plots (against Jerusalem). He chose to sacrifice everything rather than to compromise the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland," the King said.

He argued that the Hashemites continued carrying out their commitment towards Palestine up until 1974 when the PLO sought an independent representation of the Palestinians and to put an end to what it viewed as "the Hashemite patronage," at an Arab summit in Morocco.

".....My brother the Palestinian president, who was then the PLO chairman urged the Arabs to save him and the Palestinian people from Jordanian patronage," the King recalled with obvious pain touching on a deep wound that the conflict and competition for the representation have caused for both sides.

The King's call for an Arab summit to discuss a new pattern of inter-Arab relations, combined with his apparent decision to leave the PLO to shoulder the responsibility for any compromise alone are expected to increase the internal pressures on Mr. 'Arafat to seriously reconsider his relationship with Jordan.

There are trends in both camps, which seek a total disengagement, but the overwhelming trend, both in Jordan and the PLO, so far seems to be that of those who want to establish a sound relationship on equal footing, according to officials and analysts.

Consequently, these analysts and officials expect to see moves by Jordanians and Palestinians in the next two weeks to try to contain an aggravation of the differences and to look for new horizons in the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship on all levels.

Press Report to King's 4 Sep News Conference

JN0509121293

[Editorial Report] King Husayn's 4 September news conference in Amman was extensively highlighted by all Jordanian dailies on 5 September. All papers published the details of the news conference under the following front-page banner headlines:

SAWT AL-SHA'B: Husayn Emphasizes His Support for the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement; Gaza-Jericho First Agreement Is a Serious Step Forward; I Do Not Expect the Agreement To Pose Any Danger to Jordan.

AL-DUSTUR: Husayn Announces His Full Support for the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement; Jordan Will Not Be an Alternative Homeland for Anyone; No Need for the Joint Delegation Umbrella Following Mutual Recognition; We Hope for a Quick Discussion of the Issue of Refugees Who Were Forced Out of Their Homes After the 1967 Disaster.

AL-RA'Y: Husayn: Gaza-Jericho Issue Is Planned To Include All Occupied Territories; We Are Now Aware of the Details and the Process Is a Serious Step Forward; We Will Continue To Play Our Role by Fully Supporting the Sole Legitimate Representative of the Palestinian People and Their Hopes and Aspirations.

JORDAN TIMES: King Extends Unequivocal Support for Israeli- Palestinian Agreement; 'Arafat Has Conveyed 'Full Package' of Proposal; Accord Begins a Process Leading to Implementation of 242 and Is the Decision of the Sole, Legitimate Representative of Palestinians.

Commenting on the king's news conference, AL-DUSTUR praises the king's "clarity, sincerity, and frankness" and says the Palestinian- Israeli agreement has "removed the major hurdle on the Jordanian- Israeli track." It adds that the agreement "is a great accomplishment that is no less commendable than winning a battle, for which all requirements of success have been secured."

SAWT AL-SHA'B also editorializes on the king's news conference, reiterating the king's remarks in support of the "sisterly Palestinian people and their sole, legitimate representative." It adds: "For the Gaza-Jericho First option to be a first step toward a final solution that would enable the Palestinian brothers to restore their national rights, Jordan—as His Majesty King Husayn said—will continue to support the PLO and enable it to perform its task of conducting negotiations for the sake of restoring its people's rights." It adds: "All the Arab states should shoulder their pan-Arab responsibilities and support the option that guarantees the restoration of the Palestinian and Arab rights. They should rally international support for the solution chosen by the Palestinian brothers, exactly as Jordan did and continues to do."

The JORDAN TIMES editorial says: "Being fully aware of the intention of those forces that do not wish Palestinian-Jordanian relations well, the king yesterday sought to put an end, once and for all, to all attempts to fishing in the murky waters. He dotted the I's and crossed the T's by fully endorsing the accord."

Amman AL-RA'Y, AL-DUSTUR, and SAWT AL-SHA'B on 5 September publish the text of the speech King Husayn delivered at the extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers on 8 June 1988, in which he detailed Jordan's "sacrifices" for the Palestine question and Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

On 4 September, the three dailies published the king's speech at the Rabat Arab summit on 27 October 1974, also devoted to the Palestine question.

Jordanian columnists continue to be divided over the Palestinian- Israeli agreement even after the king's 4 September news conference, in which he expressed full support for the agreement. Writing in SAWT AL-SHA'B on 5 September, Salamah 'Ukur asks the government to "listen to the pulse of the Jordanian people and take into consideration their remarks on the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination—a coordination which exists only in statements made with or without a proper motivation—and consequently respond to the people's aspirations as represented in the need to stop mortgaging the Jordanian position to the Palestinian position." He adds: "In the same manner that we respect the independent Palestinian decision and the Palestinian position in spite of its deficiencies, the Jordanian Government should safeguard the independence of the Jordanian decision, as well as the Jordanian position, which places the interests of the homeland and the interests of the Jordanian people and their security, stability, independence, and sovereignty over their soil above any other consideration." He then urges the government to be alert to what is being concocted behind its back to the detriment of its national security and stability.

Writing in the same issue of the paper, columnist 'Arafat Hijazi says: "Those who think the Gaza-Jericho plan has any advantage for the Palestinians only deceive themselves because Israel, which has never recognized the existence or rights of these people, is planning a fierce civil war so that it can once and for all get rid of the Palestinian people, who insist on regaining all their rights."

AL-RA'Y columnist Sultan al-Hattab lavishes praise on the king for supporting the Gaza-Jericho agreement and says: "In his news conference, the king corrected the crookedness of some who tried to implant it in both position and rank." He thanks the king for having "exterminated sedition before it could rise" and adds: "If some Arabs have succeeded in diavowing, besieging, starving, and bargaining over the Palestinian people, we in Jordan can never do that because we are the closest to Palestine not only in terms of geography, but in terms of history, blood, and descent."

Columnist Salih al-Qallab, writing in the 5 September issue of AL-DUSTUR, attacks those who opposed the Gaza-Jericho plan before even reading it. He then defends the agreement and concludes by saying: "We are now at a critical juncture which is the outcome of a reality which continued for many decades. Therefore, those shaping the public opinion are duty bound not to be swayed by their instincts or give vent to old grudges that have nothing to do with Palestine or with care for the Palestinians. The one who fans the fire of hateful

regionalism only harms Jordan and its immortal message, stabs Palestine in the heart, and misinterprets the orientations of our Hashemite leadership."

Information Minister on PLO-Israeli Accord

JN0609135493 Amman AL-MASIRAH in Arabic 6 Sep 93 p 5

[Report on an interview with Jordanian Information Minister Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar by unidentified AL-MASIRAH reporter on 2 Sep; place not given]

[Text] [AL-MASIRAH] How does the Jordanian Government view the recent developments in the peace negotiations? How far have the current talks in Washington gotten? What do you expect from the 11th round? What about the Gaza-Jericho First plan?

[Abu-Nuwwar] We can say nothing now about this issue. The negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides on the one hand, and the Jordanian and Israeli sides on the other, are still continuing. So far we have not received enough information about the Gaza-Jericho agreement or about the results. What is available so far is what was reported by newspapers and carried by news agencies. At any rate, the negotiations are continuing. The Jordanian agenda is not ready. What the Palestinian brothers have announced is almost agreed upon. We have to wait. I cannot really talk about what is happening now.

Asked whether there was any departure from the recent statement issued by the Arab foreign ministers in Beirut: I have no information on that. I cannot say that the PLO or the Palestinian negotiating team has departed from the agreement reached with the foreign ministers of the cordon states during the 11th round. The negotiations are currently under way, and we cannot say that any party has departed from the agreement. I do not think there was a departure from the agreement of the foreign ministers. However, if the other delegations think otherwise, I have no information.

Asked whether the Gaza-Jericho agreement came as a surprise, the minister said: Yes, it came as a surprise to the Jordanian Government. No one knew about it, not even the Americans. U.S. Secretary of State Christopher was not in on what was going on in Oslo. No one knew about the negotiations that have been going on in Oslo since January 1992. They came as a surprise to the entire Arab world.

The negotiations also surprised me. At first, I did not believe the report until I heard the Norwegian foreign minister speak about this issue.

The information minister denied secret contacts in Spain between the Jordanians, Syrians, and Israelis.

[AL-MASIRAH] Is the Gaza-Jericho First plan an independent Palestinian decision?

[Abu-Nuwwar] I do not know whether it is independent or not. I think it is a very serious, historic decision that should be viewed carefully, cautiously, and in an objective manner that safeguards higher Palestinian interests. I cannot comment on it before I know all its details.

[AL-MASIRAH] How do you support the independent Palestinian decisionmaking?

[Abu-Nuwwar] His Majesty King Husayn has promised to do this and promised Yasir 'Arafat this since the disengagement of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, which was aimed at giving the Palestinians the independence they deserve. We sought to give the delegation complete freedom, support and backing.

On the minister's denial of a report carried by Israel radio and news agencies about the imminent signing of a Jordanian-Israeli agreement of principles, Abu-Nuwwar said: Israeli radio quoted me as saying things that I did not utter. This was surprising to me, because I did not tell anybody what I said about the Jordanian-Israeli agenda.

Asked whether the government will support the Palestinian option, Abu-Nuwwar said: I don't know, because we have not received the details of this agreement yet. If this agreement is in the interest of the Palestinian people, the government will support it, but if it is harmful and would cause harm to Jordan, the Jordanian Government will reject it, and it will not be binding on us.

[AL-MASIRAH] Gaza-Jericho First. Doesn't this term constitute an end to the Greater Israel slogan?

[Abu-Nuwwar] When any state makes a political decision, there will be opponents of this decision inside and outside that state. We do not plan to make a decision in this regard. We do not have information about a Palestinian-Israeli agreement. The negotiations are still taking place in Washington. So, how can we say this is right and this is wrong?

[AL-MASIRAH] Gaza-Jericho First—is there any second or third?

[Abu-Nuwwar] There is caution. When you agree on something in principle, the other side can then say that you have agreed on this point. So, we will not discuss this. One should keep this in mind, and, based on this, one should have reservations. Haydar 'Abd-al- Shafi referred to this yesterday, Wednesday [1 September]. Let us not prejudge things and events.

Concerning the guarantees Jordan spoke about in relation to security, Abu-Nuwar said: Jordan is a kingdom with 130,000 men in its armed forces to defend the security of their homeland. This is in addition to the popular army. We do not have security concerns. Jordan can close its borders at any time to safeguard its national security. All sides know that there will be no peace without King Husayn or Jordan. The king is a wise man who can make the appropriate decision in this regard. At any rate, we should wait to learn about the final picture of the agreement. All sides should assume their responsibility, and no one is required to conclude unilateral solutions.

[AL-MASIRAH] What do you have to say about reports on the security service's interference in the meetings of the higher committee on parties or attempts to attend these meetings?

[Abu-Nuwwar] I do not know anything about this issue. They might have the right to attend the meetings, or the parties themselves might not be licensed. In general, I know nothing about this subject. However, if a party is meeting at its headquarters, then no one should interfere in its meeting. I will follow up this issue to learn whether there was a violation of democracy, and I will support democracy.

Reports of Jordanian-Israeli Accord 'Untrue'

JN0409073493 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Manama, 4 Sep (WAKH)—Jordanian Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has said that his country has not received any documents on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, from the Palestinians, the Israelis, or the United States and Russia in their capacity as the two states sponsoring the peace talks.

In a statement carried in today's issue of the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, Abu-Nuwwar added that all the information available to Jordan on this agreement has been obtained from news agency reports.

Asked about reports on a Jordanian-Israeli agreement, the Jordanian information minister said that reports in this regard were untrue, and that all that has been raised is an agenda for Jordanian-Israeli negotiations. This agenda was actually raised at the negotiating table in the past 10 rounds, and it concerns occupied Jordanian territories in the southern Jordan Valley.

Abu-Nuwwar explained that all news agency reports on a joint Israeli-Jordanian agreement are premature reports. Such a matter may take us months or years, and we can then begin to talk about a joint peace agreement. Regarding Jerusalem, Abu-Nuwwar said this issue is an Arab and Islamic concern, and that there is no Arab or Muslim issue that is more important.

Regarding Arab solidarity, Abu-Nuwwar explained that there is nothing new in the efforts made by many Arab parties to restore this solidarity, pointing out that he has thus far not seen any worthwhile development in inter-Arab relations.

Muslim Brotherhood Rejects Gaza-Jericho Plan

JN0309163293 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Sep 93 p 18

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan has attacked the PLO- Israel agreement, better known as the Gaza-Jericho First plan. The Brotherhood described it as a dubious agreement concluded in secret.

A statement issued by the Muslim Brotherhood information office yesterday denounced the agreement, the parties to it, and those who support it, because it ignores the issue of Jerusalem, keeps settlements as they are, gives legitimacy to the occupation on the largest part of the land of Palestine, dwarves Palestinian rights into a midget autonomy on less than two percent of the land of Palestine, halts resistance operations against the occupation, and abrogates the right of return of more than three million Palestinians in the diaspora.

The statement called on all sides to work together to foil the agreement. The statement stressed that the nation will wake up to achieve its glory.

Islamists, Leftists Stage Protest at al-Baq'ah

JN0409103393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Sep 93 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P. V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Muslim fundamentalists joined hands with leftists Friday to stage a protest in the al-Baq'ah refugee camp outside Amman against the partial Palestinian autonomy plan that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has worked out with Israel.

The protest, organised by some factions of the so-called Damascus Ten—an alliance of leftist hardline Palestinian groups and Islamic fundamentalist movements—was the first such event in Jordan after the PLO and Israel announced the Gaza-Jericho first plan late last month.

The Islamist-dominated demonstration by a crowd of between 300 and 400 people was launched from the al-Nabulsi Mosque inside the sprawling camp of 100,000 Palestinian refugees, most of them who fled the West Bank in 1967.

The low number of protesters were attributed by activists to the strong influence that the main-stream Fatah faction, led by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, wields in the camp.

"There are political forces at play trying to dilute the opposition to the Gaza-Jericho agreement," said a resident. "But within themselves those who are staying away (from the rally) know that the plan is treason. They will come out to the streets when the time is right, when there can no longer be any excuses or covers for 'Arafat to hide behind."

It also appeared that not all groups in Damascus Ten were part of the protest. Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamic resistance Movement, Hamas, were the leading forces in the rally.

Emotions against the Gaza-Jericho plan, seen by many as a sellout of the Palestinian cause, were charged to a fever pitch by the Friday sermon at the mosque by a clergyman, varyingly identified as Shaykh Musa, Shaykh 'Umar and Shaykh Ahmad, before the rally started winding through the narrow streets of the crowded camp.

"Who appointed the PLO as the sole an legitimate representative of the Palestinian people so that it could bargain over the rights of the Palestinian people?" asked the Shaykh.

"We are all sons of Palestine and we reject not only the Gaza- Jericho plan but also the entire peace process," he declared, urging the worshippers to "emphatically let their rejection be known to the traitors."

The preacher assailed every aspect of the autonomy plan, including the limited control that the Palestinians will have under the arrangement while the Israelis will control security.

"The Palestinians will be doing nothing except cleaning the streets and municipal duties in addition to trying to control the intifadah in Gaza," he said.

Mr. 'Arafat "is going to be nothing but an Israeli-appointed mayor of Gaza and Jericho," he asserted, setting a key phrase for the protest march that followed.

Half a dozen youths, their faces covered with the chequered Palestinian headdress or the green Islamic flag, rode in an open pick-up mounted with loudspeakers as the nucleus of the protest. Camp residents scrambled to their rooftops to wave black flags in a sign of protest, or the Palestinian national flag.

A handful of bearded elders from the camp led the rally as small boys holding aloft the Holy Koran flanked them under the watchful eye of a few security men.

The burst of what at first appeared to be gunshots created a small panic, but then it turned out that someone was celebrating a wedding with firecrackers.

Young children outnumbered adults in the march. One six-year old, Ashraf, whose parents are from Jericho, said he would like to go back if the Gaza-Jericho autonomy plan "worked." But he was immediately voted down by elder boys.

"We would like to go back to the whole of Palestine, not just a piece of land," three of them shouted in chorus.

Speakers representing groups in the Damascus Ten wielded the microphone at various junctures to exhort the crowd with themes such as "'Arafat is a traitor." "The Gaza-Jericho plan is a sell-out to the Zionists." "If the U.S. has fighter planes we have God and our will to fight the Israelis," and "Jerusalem will be liberated."

"No to self-rule, no to treason," they chanted. "No to surrender, yes to jihad."

"I was always in the front of previous rallies here in support of Abu-'Ammar ('Arafat)," said a youth who gave his name as Khalid. "I used to shout with my blood and soul: We Redeem You, Abu-'Ammar." But the situation has changed; now, Abu-'Ammar has sold us out."

It was quite apparent that leftist groups in the Damascus Ten—formed early this year to press Palestinian opposition to the U.S.- backed Arab-Israeli peace process launched in Madrid in October 1991—preferred to stick to nationalist slogans while the Islamists brought in slogans revolving around the theme, "jihad is the only way to liberate Palestine."

And, perhaps for the first time in public in the camp, repeated questions were raised over the legitimacy of the PLO.

"The (1974) Rabat (Arab summit) decision to name the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people was a conspiracy, said Muslim brotherhood activist Hammam Sa'id, a former member of the Jordanian Parliament from Amman.

"It is the duty and obligations of the Arab and Islamic worlds to foil the (Gaza-Jericho) programme and the so-called peace process," said Dr. Sa'id, addressing the crowd from the back of the pick-up after the rally wound up at the sports ground of al-Baq'ah Social Club.

"The PLO leaders are nothing but a bunch of criminals and traitors," he said. "We, the sons of Palestine, will resist this surrender of our rights through jihad."

Mansur Murad, also a former deputy but a leftist activist, said the PLO had lost all credibility.

"They are trying to sell the rights of the Palestinian people and we, Jordanians and Palestinians, will foil them," he told the rally.

Organisers of the rally announced that they were calling a "Palestinian national conference on a level equal to that of the Palestine National Council" next week to "discuss the autonomy plan and decide on future action."

To emphasise their protest against what they see as American collusion in working out the Gaza-Jericho plan, the demonstrators also burned an American and an Israeli flag from atop a mosque overlooking the sports ground.

Austrian President Klestil Pays Official Visit

Arrives in Amman 4 Sep

JN0409172593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] His Excellency Austrian President Thomas Klestil has begun a state visit to Jordan at the invitation of His Majesty King Husayn. The two leaders will hold talks on regional and international issues of mutual interest, primarily Middle East peace and cooperation between the two friendly countries.

His Majesty King Husayn led those who received the Austrian president. Also on hand to receive the Austrian president were His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn; His Highness Prince Talal Bin- Muhammad,

military secretary of his majesty the king; Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.

The national anthems of the two countries were played before the two great leaders inspected the guard of honor.

Officials talks will begin later tonight.

Confers With King on Peace Process

JN0509174593 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] His Majesty the king and the Austrian president held talks on bilateral relations and the unique ties of friendship that link the two countries.

His majesty briefed the Austrian president on the latest developments in the peace process and Jordan's domestic efforts to consolidate democracy in the country.

The Austrian president praised Jordan's efforts in the Middle East peace process and its role in defending human rights.

King, Klestil Brief Press

JN0509135493 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1109 GMT 5 Sep 93

["Full recording" of a news conference held by Jordanian King Husayn and Austrian President Thomas Klestil with unidentified reporters at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 5 September]

[Text] [Husayn] I would like to say how pleased I am on behalf of the government, the people of Jordan, and for myself to welcome a very dear friend, the president of Austria, to Jordan on this his first visit outside Europe to this country. This means a lot to us, as does a friendship that has grown over the years while we uphold the same ideas and principles and seek to contribute towards a better future for people within our respective regions and in the world.

It is a friendship that has grown through difficult times that all of us has faced. It is a friendship that has endured through tests of true friendship, and, therefore, it is very special to us; we are very proud of it, cherish it, treasure it, and hopefully will build on it in the times ahead in many areas and in many ways. Your excellency, in your visit your have given me the opportunity to hear from you, and share with us, at this very important time in this part of the world, the impressions of what is happening, which we all hope will lead to the establishment of a just comprehensive peace that future generations can enjoy. We are doubly grateful, Sir, that you have come at this moment. We have had the chance to talk about all subjects of mutual concern and we are very, very happy indeed and very, very grateful for the opportunity and very happy with the results.

This is another milestone in a friendship that grows and continues based on mutual respect and trust and what is really of meaning and value between friends. Thank you very much indeed.

[Klestil] I would like to express my gratitude to his majesty for his kind invitation to come to Jordan for this exchange of views, to strengthen our already existing friendship, to have an exchange of views at a very, very important time. It simply happened—I underlined yesterday in talking to my Austrian friends from the media that my coming at this time is no indication that we are involved in some of the secret talks. It simply happened that I came at a time where important, what we consider very important first steps hopefully will be taken in the peace process. Austria will continue to support with its modest means this peace process. I was happy to say that the development also confirms the right to track of the Austrian foreign which over the decades has supported the same objectives, and we will continue within the multilateral process the efforts. I was happy that we went through a list of possible ideas and issues and projects in the bilateral relations, and I may say that I was very happy to also receive by his majesty an invitation next time to come and pay a state visit to Jordan, which I gladly will do. Thank you, Your Majesty.

[Reporter] Do you think that current happening are posthumous a major satisfaction for the politics and efforts of Bruno Kreisky in the Middle East? And how would you explain that this peace process or breakthrough was achieved in Oslo and not Vienna?

[Husayn] Was achieved in Oslo? Well, sir, I think that the president is kind enough to suggest that Austria, and his good self were not involved nor were we, [laughing] I mean we have that other dimension in common, really.

[Klestil] Well, I think the first part of your answer has to be replied to in a positive way. It is confirmation of what the former chancellor Bruno Kreisky has always stressed at the time when his opinion was not shared by many. So it is a confirmation. Secondly, while we were not involved, well, you can play the role you are asked to play by all parties concerned, and I am sure if next we are asked, we will play the role and we try to hide it from you as good as we can [laughing].

[Reporter] Your majesty, Faysal al-Husayni, the Palestinian leader in Jerusalem, stated yesterday independent state in Gaza and West Bank will be set up and it will be a confederation with Jordan. In a similar way uttered Mr. Peres, foreign minister of Israel. Is that concept of confederation still feasible for you?

[Husayn] I've expressed my view on that, and I believe that I've expressed the feelings of the government and the people of Jordan. The ties between Jordanians and Palestinians are extremely strong. They are very unique. But on the other hand, our position has also been very, very clear. Ideas have been floated in the past; in 1972, we had some suggestions as to the form of relations that would exist between Jordan and Palestine if people

under condition of freedom agree to one of three choices at that time; the most well remembered could have been the concept of two states in what we called at that time the United Arab Kingdom. In the recent past there has been talk about a federation or confederation, but my answer is very, very clear. We'll let the future take care of that, and it is illogical to speak of any form of relationship until such time as the other party, in other words the Palestinian brethren, are in a position to exercise, under condition of total freedom, their right of choice, and then we can talk about it.

[Reporter] Your majesty, may I add one question in this context? How can Jordan contribute to the building up of structures for a autonomous, autonomously-ruled part of Palestine? How can Jordan support the build up of structures?

[Husayn] It's not very clear to me either how this can happen. But, we will obviously be discussing with our Palestinian brethren exactly what they require of us and to see what we can do to help, in anyway we can, their steps as they move along.

[Reporter] Would Jordan now go ahead with its own accord with Israel?

[Husayn] It's been misrepresented as an accord. It's, in fact, an agenda of all the topics that have to be discussed in great depth and hopefully the problems that have to be resolved. We had reached an outline of those topics in an agenda. We had held it back until such time as we saw progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track. The situation is as follows: Once we see the Palestinian-Israeli moves materialize in terms of the expected agreements, then we will handle our own responsibilities towards ourselves and the future of our people and obviously on another level to help in anyway we can with the process of establishing a just and durable peace in this region. There are many problems inter-related. Regarding the agenda, it will probably be ratified after the Palestinian-Israeli agreements materialize.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, It's been said that Jordan doesn't have many problems left with Israel except for the Palestinians. After this accord is ratified, the draft agenda, how soon would you expect to reach a full peace with Israel?

[Husayn] I think it will be very clear from what I have said, time and again, that what we are after is a comprehensive peace. And I beg to differ with your view that Jordan doesn't have any problem with Israel except the Palestinians. Jordan has many problems dictated by geography, proximity, occupied territory and all the other problems that are a challenge to both sides in terms of bringing about peace in the region between us as well as helping with regard to the Palestinian dimension as well. There is a human element. There are resources. There are areas that are still under occupation. There is a whole structure of peace in the future. So, there are many problems that have to be addressed. And if I put it another way, I think Jordan has been, more than any, in this entire region the recipient of the negative results of every disaster that has affected the Arab world and particularly the Palestinian people. So, there is much that is important for us to address and attempt to resolve. But, in the final analysis, it will take time to work out all these problems and we hope that eventually this will be accomplished simultaneously with the [five-second break in transmission] so that we can comprehensive peace. This is what we have sought all along and we've adhered to this approach over the many years that have passed. Now, there is a chance. Let's hope that it is taken because it is the last chance and we have given every support that we can for the people immediately concerned and wish them every continued success in achieving their objectives of the kind of peace that the future generations deserve in this region.

[Reporter] We would like to hear the way that you'd like to strengthen ties with Jordan and what sort of a role would you play after a peace agreement is signed?

[Klestil] Well, I am sure that the Europeans will have to look into the agreement, not only from a political and diplomatic point of view, but also as to the economic and financial problems that are involved, and I think that a peace agreement would deserve all the support, economically and financially, that can be given.

[Reporter] Is there a special treatment or relations with Jordan after the peace agreement is signed?

[Klestil] Well, between Austria and Jordan, there have always been very, very close and friendly relations, and nothing will change other than Jordan may even play a more important role in the region. So, we have even more reasons to look into strengthening of our bilateral relations.

[Reporter] Having chaired the international forum on human rights in Vienna two months ago, how do you see Jordan's contribution to human rights in the region, the whole of the Middle East, I mean?

[Klestil] Well, Jordan I think, gives a good example. We talked also this morning, I understand that there will be another round of elections in Jordan, and a parliament with all the multiparty system. Many parties will run. I think this is a good example of giving democratic rights to the people.

[Reporter] Just one question concerning the peace process in the Middle East. Do you think, Your Majesty, that this process is irreversible, or can it be torpedoed by extremists in Israel and in the Palestinian society?

[Husayn] I suppose there is always danger, but one hopes that those who believe in peace will overcome the difficulties ahead and that others will, through tangible results when they occur, realize that it is the only choice, and the best choice of all.

[Reporter] Mr. President, although you already talked about the matter, you did not participate in the secret

talks but have you been approached directly, as Austria, for any help on the autonomy, economical help outside the EEC?

[Klestil] As I said, we have not been approached to help arranging those contacts, and I am not aware of any bilateral direct contacts in addition to what is expected from the Europeans as a group. I may add to your question about human rights, I should also like to say that in giving of so many refugees and displaced persons a home and a base of existence is also a very, very good example of human rights.

[Reporter] In addition to its chairing the Water Committee, what is Austria's contribution in the peace process?

[Klestil] Well, in the multilateral, there is, as you mentioned, the Water Resources Committee and also energy-related problems and questions, like we have the system of a cooperation in a regional way of all energy-creating sources. So, those are the two areas in which Austria has been involved and will continue to be involved. Thank you.

[Husayn] Thank you, very, very much, indeed. All the best.

Seen Off by King Husayn

JN0509160293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency Dr. Thomas Klestil, the Austrian president, and his delegation left Amman this afternoon at the end of an official two-day visit to Jordan. During the visit he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn and a number of ranking officials dealing with a number of important issues on the regional and international levels, and the possibilities for cooperation between the two friendly countries.

His excellency the Austrian president was accorded an official farewell ceremony at Amman Military Airport, in which His Majesty King Husayn led those who saw him off. [passage omitted]

King, Queen Leave for UK on 'Private Visit'

JN0509144293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Excerpt] His Majesty Kign Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left the homeland, with God's blessing and care, this afternoon on a private visit that will last a few days for the United Kingdom.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath in the presence of the cabinet members as a deputy of His Majesty King Husayn. [passage omitted]

King Cancels Asia Trip in Wake of Regional Events

JN0509100493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Sep 93 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—His Majesty King Husayn has decided to cancel a trip to China later this month because of developments in the Middle East, a spokesman for the royal palace said on Saturday. the King was to visit China from Sept. 13 to 16 and travel to Thailand and Singapore, the spokesman said.

Buwayz Denies Accord With Israel Imminent

NC0409171893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1624 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified radio correspondent on 4 Sep—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat [Abu-'Ammar] has affirmed that the coming week will witness the signing of agreements between Israel, on one hand, and Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Palestinians, on the other. He said the signing will take place in Washington. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has ruled out the possibility of signing such agreements next week. What is the truth of the matter, Your Excellency?

[Buwayz] In fact, I have no idea about the source of Abu-'Ammar's optimism. I do not know if this optimism is based on analysis or information. At any rate, we have no information indicating the inevitability of reaching an agreement in the near future, or in the next few days. We are still demanding that Israel recognize the principle of full withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories. The two meetings held in Washington have not made the desired progress that indicates a possible agreement.

I believe that Mr. Yasir 'Arafat might be talking on the basis of what happened along the Israeli-Palestinian track. He might be expressing some optimism concerning the other tracks. However, and until this moment, this optimism is not based on actual facts.

[Correspondent] Do we understand that the signing of such agreements is unlikely in the next few days, or that it is completely ruled out?

[Buwayz] In fact, we are still where we were in the previous rounds. During the two meetings, no progress was achieved in terms of recognizing the principle of full withdrawal. There is much talk about possible accomplishments during this round. However, we have not sensed anything of the sort until this moment, except when it comes to the Palestinian-Israeli track—that is, if we can view this as an accomplishment.

[Correspondent] We have learned that you held a meeting this afternoon with his excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Can you tell us what that meeting was about?

[Buwayz] His excellency the president received a written message from U.S. President Clinton this afternoon concerning the peace process in general and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement specifically. My meeting with the president revolved around that paper in particular and its assessment and diagnosis of the general political situation.

Al-Hariri Criticizes Israeli-Palestinian Accord

NC0409190293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Speech by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri during a ceremony to lay the cornerstone of the new Sports City in the Bi'r Hasan District in Beirut—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Brothers: We are at the threshold of an extremely delicate and serious stage that requires us more than any time before to emphasize our total cohesion with Syria led by President Hafiz al-Asad. [applause] We must consider this cohesion to be a vital element for completing the building of domestic national peace and for our common approach toward establishing external peace.

I would like to refer to certain positions and comments that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will weaken both Lebanon and Syria. I must remind you that a sound reading of the past, present, and future asserts that there can be no peace in the region without Syria and Lebanon. [applause] The enemy knows this fact before the friend. Syria and Lebanon have always been a support for the Palestinian cause. They paid a heavy price for supporting it. They constitute a permanent force for this cause. We don't blame the Palestinians because we were not notified of the agreement, as we are not a news agency. The absence of coordination with us and Syria will weaken the Palestinian cause and not us or Syria. Syria is strong with its leadership, people, Army, steadfastness, and standing in the Arab nation. Lebanon is strong in its leadership, army, unity, national will, people's steadfastness, and its determination to liberate its land and rebuild and face the great challenges posed by the historic transformations taking place in the region.

Lebanon is strong in its total and complete agreement and cooperation with Syria. It is strong as it clings to its rights, its people's steadfastness, and the future. At this unique time in the region's history, the Lebanese and Syrian positions merge in one national stand and solidarity to preserve the minimum limit of Arab solidarity.

Brothers: The return of Palestinians to their land is inevitable. Their presence in Lebanon has been and will remain temporary. Any other bet on this firm fact is an illusion and mirage. Thus, the Lebanese emphasized in the principles of their national accord that Lebanese territory is one and for all its sons and that there will be no partition or resettlement. Therefore, we will not accept under any circumstances the resettlement of part of the Palestinians on our land. Lebanon is for the Lebanese and Palestine is for the Palestinians. Lebanon, standing as it does at the threshold of peace, will enter a race in all fields. The success of this homeland and progress of its sons will be protected in this race and in other political battles by our ability to safeguard our solidarity and maintain consultation among all Lebanese.

O guests, O youths: God willing the horizons will be open before you. The horizons will be open to regain normalcy

and achieve an economic and construction revival in complete cooperation with the Arab brothers. During my latest tour, the Arabs demonstrated effective solidarity with Lebanon and with its people and their desire to rebuild the country. On this occasion, I thank all the brothers who responded to Lebanon's appeal and implemented the Arab League's resolutions. I also thank all brothers who unleashed work in building this major sports edifice. [passage omitted]

Leaders Confer With al-Asad, King Husayn

NC0509052693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi conferred by telephone with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the current situation in the area and the issue of the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement.

President al-Hirawi also received a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton on the peace process and the Gaza-Jericho First plan, according to Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri conferred by telephone with Jordanian King Husayn on the issue of the agreement, and agreed that Prime Minister al-Hariri will visit Jordan soon.

Buwayz Receives Kozyrev Message

NC0509193293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today received a special envoy of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. The envoy conveyed to Buwayz a message from Kozyrev dealing with the latest developments in the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Syria's al-Shar' Arrives With Message, Meets al-Hirawi

NC0609163593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Regional developments, especially the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on Gaza and Jericho, are still prompting intense contacts to clarify and define the various stands at this crucial juncture of the region's history.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Lebanon unexpectedly today with a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President Ilyas al-Hirawi dealing with current developments following the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Al-Shar' arrived at the B'abda Palace at approximately 1715 and met immediately with President al-Hirawi.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz received al-Shar' at the border point in al-Masna' and accompanied him and a number of advisers to B'abda Palace.

Al-Shar', Buwayz Comment After Talks

NC0609185793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Dispatch by radio correspondent Sa'd Ilyas from the presidential palace—recorded]

[Text] The meeting between President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz ended a short while ago. In a statement after the meeting, Minister al-Shar' said that within the context of coordination and consultations between Lebanon and Syria he has briefed the president on the meetings that were recently held in the Syrian capital. Minister al-Shar' denied that there are any new developments in the Syrian-Israeli track. The Syrian minister revealed that he was upset that he was not briefed on the contacts that had taken place between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. Let's listen to what Minister al-Shar' had to say:

[Begin recording] [Al-Shar'] Within the context of the continuing coordination and consultations between Syria and Lebanon, I was honored to have met with the president. I have briefed him on a number of exchanges and meetings that took place in Damascus recently. These exchanges and meetings concern the peace process and the Israeli-Palestinian accord, as well as the new developments in the region.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency, how do you assess the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which will be signed between the Palestinians and Israelis?

[Al-Shar'] A lengthy meeting was held between President Hafiz al-Asad and Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee in Damascus yesterday. During the meeting, Mr. 'Arafat gave an in-depth briefing on the agreement and its circumstances. It was reiterated during the meeting that the Palestinian people and institutions have the final say. As you know, we in Syria support the Palestinian people so that they can regain their legitimate rights and achieve their national aspirations.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct].

[Al-Shar'] I have no idea. You should address this question to the Palestinian leadership.

[Correspondent] What in your opinion the Gaza-Jericho [word indistinct]?

[Al-Shar'] We listened to the course of contacts that had taken place about the Palestinian-Israeli accord and the future steps. We, however, cannot predict what could happen.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct].

[Al-Shar'] So far there is nothing new regarding the Syrian- Israeli track. All that happened was that the Syrian and Israeli delegations reviewed the provisions

that were discussed during the past rounds. Actually, there is no progress so far and we cannot speculate before the end of this round.

[Correspondent] Are there secret contacts between the Syrians and Lebanese on the one hand and the Israelis on the other in a European country?

[Al-Shar'] This is absolutely untrue.

[Correspondent] The U.S. secretary of state has set a preliminary date in the current round of talks for the announcement of a declaration of principles [words indistinct]

[Al-Shar'] I have not heard of this, but perhaps it is hopeful that Secretary Christopher has done this. But for us, and I believe for the other tracks excluding the Palestinian one, there is nothing new so far.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] messages to the leaders of the Arab countries urging them to support [words indistinct], what is the Syrian position on this agreement?

[Al-Shar'] The Syrian position was announced yesterday following President Hafiz al-Asad's meeting with Mr. 'Arafat. We said that a decision on the issue of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is up first and foremost to the Palestinian people and their institutions.

[Correspondent] I have a question on the issue of coordination. Do you believe that the [words indistinct] will affect coordination in the future?

[Al-Shar'] Naturally we are not hiding our concern, which we expressed during Beirut's coordination meeting, about not being informed of the contacts held between the Palestinian and Israeli sides and the agreement reached between the two. However, this is one issue and supporting or not supporting the agreement is another issue. As we have stated, the agreement is a Palestinian affair. As for coordination, we feel that a gap has been opened in the wall of Arab coordination. Although the coordination was not at its best, yet it provided enough guarantees to spare the Arab position any shortcomings. We, particularly Syria and Lebanon, totally agree on the need to continue, consolidate, and strengthen this coordination under all circumstances. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz then spoke, denying any progress in the talks. He added:

[Being recording] [Buwayz] In fact, so far we cannot say that there is any progress from the previous round. A certain state of stagnation prevails during this round.

[Correspondent] Do you expect progress on the Lebanese track?

[Buwayz] I believe that it is still hard to speculate on this matter, considering the developments that are taking place. As I have previously stated, so far there is no tangible progress to enable us to [word indistinct] this round from previous rounds.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]?

[Buwayz] The Lebanese position, as a government and people, regarding the question of resettlement [of Palestinians] is firm, clear, and not subject to any interpretation. The Lebanese position on this issue will come at the suitable time. [end recording]

These were the remarks of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz following the Lebanese- Syrian meeting held at the Presidential Palace in B'abda. Minister al-Shar', accompanied by Minister Buwayz, left a short while ago for Damascus.

Former Speaker Criticizes PLO Envoy's Remarks

NC0509124193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] During his weekly news conference today, former Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni expressed astonishment at the comments about the resettlement of Palestinians made yesterday by PLO representative in Lebanon Shafiq al-Hut. He urged the Foreign Ministry to ask al-Hut to clarify his remarks. Al-Husayni stressed his opposition to the resettlement of Palestinians, fragmentation, and partition.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] We heard this morning about the remarks made by PLO representative Shafiq al-Hut that the resettlement of Palestinians in Lebanon is a fait accompli. We were very surprised that such talk should come from a Palestinian official representing the PLO in Lebanon. This makes it incumbent on the Lebanese Foreign Ministry to summon this official and demand a clarification about the remarks attributed to him. If the remarks were his, he must be declared persona non grata.

As to the issue in question, we say it frankly: The Lebanese people unanimously reject any discussion of any form of Palestinian resettlement in Lebanon. I will not give as the primary reason our great concern to maintain Palestinian identity and rights. We are not the main party that should shoulder this burden, although we are among those who bear a pan-Arab responsibility in this regard. I give this as the primary reason: the need to preserve our national demographic composition and national accord. Everyone must know that our rejection of resettlement, fragmentation, and partition are the foundations of our national accord and, indeed, our very national entity. Any attempt at resettlement is designed to abolish the Lebanese national entity. Hence we totally reject any discussion of the resettlement issue, not only because this rejection appears in the preambles to the Lebanese Constitution and the national accord document but also because resettlement poses very grave threats to Lebanese society, its internal balance, and its social composition. This makes it necessary for us and

every Lebanese official and citizen to hold tenaciously to this stance and proclaim to the world our total rejection of such suspicious plans. [end recording]

Junblatt Views Domestic Coexistence, Gaza-Jericho

NC0509135893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Speech by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt during ceremony honoring martyrs in al-Jahiliyah, al-Shuf, on 5 September—recorded]

[Text] The seedling watered by the blood of martyrs, including the great martyr comrade Anwar al-Fatayri [applause] has begun to grow and rise like a tower. It is a seedling of amity, coexistence, and the return of all refugees. George Dib Ni'mah, Anwar's old comrade and this constituency's deputy, is present here with us today. [applause] In cooperation with him and other spiritual, religious, political, and cultural personalities we will restore social cohesiveness to this area. The war did not come here except by an Israeli conspiracy. This is as true today as ever before. As we stand on the threshold of the so-called peace, settlement, or normalization with Israel, we in Lebanon must protect ourselves domestically by forging national unity. We are negotiating peace from the position of the vanquished. This is what some people want. They have chosen a shameful position for the Palestinian cause in Jericho. Recently, we resisted the occupation. Israel tried to flatten the south but failed to achieve anything. Last week nine Israeli soldiers died. But what can we say? They always choose the easy solutions and settlements. It is their business, not ours. However, in Lebanon we will insist on safeguarding our national, democratic heritage. It is a heritage of joint struggle with the comrades involved in the Palestinian issue. We are determined to maintain coexistence in al-Jahiliyah, Dayr al-Qamar, Sirjbal, Binwati, and other places. No obstacle will be placed in the way of coexistence. No one will bar the way to coexistence. [applause] Some are not here today. It is all right: The caravan will move and they will catch up with it. [applause]

The martyrs' blood has not been shed in vain. We fought with pride, honor, and dignity. They also fought. Two schemes contended; one prevailed. Brother refugees and returnees, this does not mean, however, that we must act like victors. Lebanon lost as a result of those crushing battles that Israel imposed on us. Lebanon is winning today through the return of the refugees and will confront the peace, or rather surrender, and normalization with Israel. I thank al-Jahiliyah residents. I thank the martyrs' families. The Progressive Socialist Party will remain loyal to all these families. [applause]

Hizballah's Yazbik Urges Continued Resistance

NC0709064193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] Hizballah Shura Council member Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik has asserted that the martyrs fought to defend the people and the homeland's dignity and to pave the way to righteousness with their chaste blood. He added that by confronting the conspiracy of global arrogance, the Islamic Resistance heroes wanted to prove to the world that homelands are built only on martyrs' blood.

Shaykh Yazbik, who was addressing an Islamic Resistance ceremony in al-Jubaniyah to mark 40 days after the death of martyr Muhammad Arbah, announced that jihad and resistance must continue. He said those who surrender to Israel must understand that the hand that signs a peace treaty will be cut off sooner or later.

Yazbik continued: Let the world know there will be no peace with the usurping enemy. Our war with the enemy goes on.

He emphasized that the conspirators want to throw a ball of fire on Lebanon by raising the issue of resettlement [of Palestinians on Lebanese territory]. He said the game will not be won and the ball will rebound on the conspirators.

'Arafat Discusses Recent Developments With al-Asad

Arrives in Damascus 5 Sep

JN0509151693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat, head of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Damascus at 1330 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, 'Arafat said: During these important and crucial circumstances facing the Palestinian issue and in light of the recent developments, I am delighted to visit Damascus in order to hold discussions with President Hafiz al-Asad and listen to his good and dear advice on everything that concerns our Palestinian issue and march.

'Arafat is accompanied by a Palestinian delegation consisting of PLO Executive Committee members Faruq Qaddumi and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, as well as Fatah Central Committee member Muhammad Ghunaym, alias Abu-Maher.

Al-Asad: PLO Must Decide Own Future

JN0609070893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation made up of Faruq Qaddumi, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Muhammad Ghunaym, and Mahmud al-Khalidi.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also attended the meeting which dealt dealt with the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. 'Arafat explained the content of the agreement and the circumstances that surrounded it.

His excellency the president affirmed Syria's continued support for the rights of the fraternal Palestinian Arab people, noting that it is up to them and to their institutions to decide whatever they deem appropriate.

'Arafat Departure Statement Reported

JN0609125593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation left Damascus this morning.

'Arafat was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the director of the PLO office in Damascus.

'Arafat made a statement to the correspondent of the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, in which he said: I am very happy to have made this visit at this very time, and to have had such a meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, especially amid these important and crucial developments through which the Palestine question in particular and the Arab question in general are passing. Therefore, I say to President Hafiz al-Asad in the name of my brothers, our people, and our strugglers thank you, thank you, thank you.

'Arafat added: We exchanged views with President Hafiz al-Asad and heard his good views and valuable advice in these historic circumstances through which we pass.

Answering the following question: Are you going to sign the agreement? 'Arafat said: So far, this subject has been governed by other issues that have not taken place yet, and we hope that they will take place in the future.

Lebanon's al-Hirawi, Jordan's Husayn Phone al-Asad

JN0509070493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad last night received a telephone call from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, during which they discussed the current situation.

President Hafiz al-Asad also received a telephone call last night from His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, during which they discussed ongoing developments.

Khaddam, al-Zu'bi Receive Lebanon's al-Hariri

JN0509152193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1230 today. During the meeting, talks covered the results of al-Hariri's recent tour of a number of Arab countries accompanied by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. Discussions also dealt with the Palestinian-Israeli accord and relations between the two fraternal countries.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1200 today. During the meeting, discussions dealt with existing bilateral relations of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination and the means to develop these relations to serve the interests of both fraternal countries and peoples.

Sources Report Planned U.S. Presence in Golan

NC0609082693 Nicosia KHARAVYI TIS DHEVTERAS in Greek 6 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by Panayiotis Paskhalis]

[Excerpt] Syria is on the verge of announcing an agreement with Israel. According to our information from reliable sources, the agreement will concern the return of the Golan Heights, which Israel has been occupying since the 1967 war, to Syria. The framework of this Syrian-Israeli agreement also sets the basic principles for resolving the question of Israeli military presence in south Lebanon.

The agreement on the Golan Heights, as it was submitted for discussion at least, ensures U.S. military presence in the area for a long period of time.

Specifically:

The Golan Heights will be divided for military purposes into three areas. A large number of U.S. troops will be deployed in the central area of the Golan Heights so as to be between the Syrian forces, who will return to the eastern part of the Heights on the side of al-Qunaytirah, and the Israelis, who will continue to occupy part of the Heights.

Syria has the right of policing and will have administrative responsibility in the whole area of the Heights, except the Western part where there will be Israeli police.

The U.S. military forces will stay in the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria to avert any possible troubles, particularly because dozens of Jewish settlements have been established in the area.

As is known, the question of Jewish settlements is not touched upon in the initial agreement reached between the Palestinians and Israel.

At any rate, the future of peace in the region depends to a great extent on the large number of Jewish settlements on the Golan Heights, which were annexed to Israel years ago, as well as in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Ba'th Official: Syria Rejects 'Separate' Solutions

JN0409160393 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Damascus, 4 Sep (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and chairman of the Higher National Committee of Arab Expatriates, has received the chairman and members of the Executive Committee of FEAARAB [Federation of pan-American Arab Organizations] in Latin America and the Caribbean. Dr. Muhsin Bilal, member of the Higher National Committee of Arab Expatriates, attended.

During the meeting, comrade al-Ahmar underlined Syria's support and backing to FEAARAB in its effort to serve Arab expatriates and strengthen their role in their new countries as messengers of the Arab nation.

Comrade al-Ahmar also spoke about developments in the region and the current peace process. He underscored Syria's position seeking to reach a just and comprehensive peaceful solution, and its rejection of the separate solutions Israel is seeking to manifest. [passage omitted]

Paper Dismisses Breakthrough, Talks with Israel

JN0609124693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Damascus, 6 Sep (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN queries the uproar about the so-called strategic breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track, while in fact the Syrian-Israeli talks just marked time and failed to make any headway, as discussions were deadlocked when they arrived at the fifth clause of the Syrian working paper. This clause deals with Israel withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights. So far, the Israelis have not given any indication as to their intention to fully withdraw from the heights or even to deal seriously with this issue.

In an editorial today by Chief Editor Muhammad Khayr al-Wadi, the paper says that through this tactical move, the organizers of this campaign want to quietly provide the appropriate circumstances for peddling the Israeli-PLO agreement. Thus, they are talking about alleged progress on the Syrian-Israeli negotiations and giving the impression that Israel is truly serious about achieving peace.

The paper continues: The same objective was sought by those who spread rumors about secret negotiations between Syria and Israel. However, those people know well that nothing like that has taken place and that the Washington negotiations were and still are the only framework for discussing outstanding issues pertaining to the settlement.

The paper explains that the Rabin government still refuses to implement UN resolutions and continues its maneuvers to evade the principle of trading land for peace. Meanwhile, it is concentrating its efforts on separate deals and small steps that are not in line and do not serve the issue of a comprehensive settlement.

TISHRIN says that events have proved that separate deals do not bring an end to wars or violence in the region. Events have also proved that it is impossible to reach a stable peace on a single front at a time when other fronts with Israel are tense and can explode any moment. The paper indicates that Syria proposed the principle of a just, comprehensive settlement on all fronts as the sole path to peace. The world, the paper continues, has been convinced of this principle and gave its blessings to the Madrid conference, which stressed the land-for-peace formula.

The paper explains that during the past 10 rounds of talks and the first week of the current round of peace talks in Washington, a well-established fact has been reasserted: It is impossible to achieve peace under occupation, and that comprehensive withdrawal is the basic condition for a stable and comprehensive peace. Any step that is not guided by this principle will remain incomplete and unable to lead to a peaceful, stable, and quiet region.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: If the international community, led by the United States, is truly eager to establish peace in the Middle East, it is required to force Israel to comply with international legitimacy, implement relevant UN resolutions, and give up the policy of aggression, expansion, and terrorism.

India

Prime Minister Departs for Talks in PRC

BK0609034293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] The prime minister left New Delhi this morning [September 6] for Beijing on a six-day visit to China and South Korea. A high-level delegation is accompanying him. Mr. Narasimha Rao was seen off at the airport, among others, by his cabinet colleagues, the services chiefs, the lieutenant governor of Delhi Mr. P.K. Dave, and senior officials.

The prime minister's main engagement in Beijing will be two rounds of talks with the Chinese premier, Mr. Li Peng, on various bilateral and international issues. He will also meet five of the seven members of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party—the highest political contact offered to any visiting head of the government in the past 10 years.

Our correspondent understands that both sides are hopeful of arriving at some formal arrangement on the Line of Actual Control, which will be a significant step toward resolving the Himalayan border issue between the two countries. They are also expected to sign agreements on cooperation in environmental protection and electronic media.

The prime minister will have a hectic schedule during his three-day visit to South Korea. Several agreements on tourism, science and technology, and culture are expected to be signed. Besides talks with the president, Kim Yong-sam, Mr. Rao will have discussions with the South Korean prime minister, Mr. Hwang In-song, covering political reforms in South Korea, economic liberalization in India, and stepping up of bilateral economic ties in the present context.

Meanwhile, Beijing is all set to welcome the Indian prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, on his visit to China. Our correspondent R.N. Mishra reports from Beijing that Mr. Rao will be received at the airport by the chairman of the Reception Committee, Mr. (Li Shi). The capital, Beijing, has been given a special face-lift and the Indian and Chinese national flags are flying all over. The local media have given wide coverage to the visit of Mr. Narasimha Rao. The English newspaper, THE CHINA DAILY, in a major story has hoped that India-China agricultural program will further grow and both the countries will complement each other.

Goverment Likely To Lift South Africa Sanctions

BK0609160693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] India is likely to lift economic sanctions against South Africa by the end of this month or early next month. This was indicated by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, while talking to newsmen on his return from a visit to South Africa, Zambia, and Kenya. Mr. Khurshid said New Delhi is expecting a signal from the Commonwealth on lifting economic sanctions.

The minister said his visit to Zambia was primarily to attend the meeting of the Joint Commission set up three years ago.

Bomb Explodes in Bombay Stock Exchange Building

BK0409065893 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] A crude bomb exploded in the second floor of the Bombay Stock Exchange building during the peak trading hours. There was no damage to life or property, fire brigade sources said. Trading was, however, not affected by the explosion. The police are interrogating several persons.

Pranab Mukherjee Resumes Post as Commerce Minister

BK3109163693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Mr. Pranab Mukherjee has been reinducted into the union cabinet as the commerce minister. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by the President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at a brief ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this evening. The vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan; the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao; his cabinet colleagues; and the leader of the opposition, Mr. Atal Behari; were among those present. Mr. Mukherjee, who is the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission comes back to the cabinet after seven weeks. He resigned as commerce minister in the 2d week of last month as he could not become a Member of Parliament within the six-months deadline. Mr. Mukherjee was later elected to the Rajya Sabha on the 17th of this month from West Bengal.

Talking to AIR [All India Radio], Mr. Mukherjee said his main task will be to keep up the export tempo. He said:

[Begin Mukherjee recording] I am happy, in the first quarter of the current financial year, exports registered a growth around 27.67 percent which is quite encouraging. Of course, one swallow does not make summer. That is why we shall have to keep constant vigil and to ensure that exports tempo is being maintained. That will be my first priority. The second priority [is] the new economic policy dispensation. We have liberalized imports not to convert India into a dumping ground of the foreign products, but to expand our production capacity and improve our technology so that we shall have to ensure that takes place which will help exports and which will help achieving higher industrial growth. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

That was Mr. Pranab Mukherjee speaking to our correspondent. In an informal chat with newsmen, the prime minister said the induction of Mr. Mukherjee is not a

cabinet expansion, as he is back after overcoming some technical snag. Replying to a question on his forthcoming visit to China and South Korea, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao said some agreements are to be signed during the visit. These are being worked out.

Government To Proceed on Bill Delinking Religion, Politics

BK0209042293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] The prime minister has said that charge sheets will be filed soon against those responsible for the demolition of Babri Masjid [mosque] in Ayodhya. Opening the national convention of the All India Quami Tanzim [National Organization] in New Delhi today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that the cases would be filed against the culprits within 20 days. He said that the government will go ahead with the bill for delinking politics from religion. He described the mixing of religion with politics as anti-national and hoped that the legislation on this will change the attitude of the people to politics. Mr. Rao said that decisive action has to be taken to end use of communalism in the poll process. The prime minister said a separate cell has been set up in the government to carry out and monitor the promises made by him. He said that steps have also been taken to remove the alienation of the people from government programs by debureaucratizing the process. He said steps have been taken to improve the credibility of government programs.

Referring to the economic policies, he said that the government will go ahead with its economic reforms and there is no scope for the exit policy in the reforms package.

Earlier, welcoming the prime minister, the president of the Tanzim, Mr. Tarik Anwar, criticized some political parties for not supporting the government on the bills to separate religion from politics. He assured the full cooperation of his body in the fight against communalism.

Minister Stresses Government Commitment to Bill

BK3008162493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, today reiterated the government's commitment to the passing of the bills separating religion from politics. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said the government is examining the possibility of an amendment to the Representation of People Act to achieve the desired results. Mr. Shukla said after ascertaining the legal opinion, if the government feels necessary to amend the act, a special session of parliament may be convened. Referring to the no- confidence motion, the minister said the government survived despite the concerted efforts by the opposition to oust the government.

Mr. Shukla described the just-concluded monsoon session of parliament as very special as it heard the attorney general on the powers of the chief election commissioner. Giving details about the business conducted during the five-week session, he said both the houses passed 20 bills, including the Safai Karmacharis [scavengers] Bill, the Extradition Amendment Bill, and the Consumer Protection Amendment Bill.

BJP Criticizes Delinking Move

BK0109125493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has criticized the government move to bring changes in the Representation of the People's Act to delink religion from politics. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party president, Mr. L.K. Advani, alleged that the move is to facilitate disqualification of BJP candidates in the ensuing assembly elections. Mr. Advani said after failing to push through the constitution amendment bill for the purpose, the government seems to be determined to introduce these changes which, he said, will subvert multiparty democracy.

Paper Debunks Proposed Bill

BK2708091593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 20 Aug 93 p 8

[Editorial: "An Outrageous Bill"]

[Text] It is not surprising that even a section of the Congress has expressed serious misgivings over the amended version of the Bill to delink religion from politics. The Bill, like the accompanying one to amend the Constitution for the same purpose, is an utterly outrageous piece of legislation. Its most alarming provision is the one for disqualifying a candidate in the pre-election stage and by an authority and in a manner to be prescribed by Parliament. This means that Parliament by law can prescribe an authority who is an executive officer under the Government and therefore subject to the latter's pressure. Given the current state of the bureaucracy this may well lead to a situation where candidates of opposition parties are disqualified in the pre-election stage allegedly for resorting to religious appeal or the promotion of communal hatred to win votes.

The scope for mischief this opens up is virtually unlimited given the nature of India's society and culture. It is common knowledge that many Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and even Christian names have religious connotations. Consider, for example, the case of Ramchandra Rath, a Congress leader from Orissa. Should he be disqualified under the Bill if his supporters shout "Ramchandraji ki jai" (victory to Ramchandraji) or "Vote for Ramchandraji" during an election campaign? Also, there can be a situation in which the opponents of a candidate seek to get him disqualified by issuing in his name a poster along communal lines. One of his opponents would have won the election and served quite a bit of his term by the time investigations following his protests against his disqualification reveal that he has been framed.

In fact, so wide is the scope of the Bill and so ambiguous the connotations of its operative terms that it can be a diabolical weapon in the hands of a government determined to usher in a one-party state. The Congress will have only itself to blame if people suspect it of harbouring such intentions. The eminent lawyer and former Congress Minister, P. Chidambaram, has told the Select Committee that there is no need to amend the Constitution as the purpose of the Amendment Bill could be served by resorting to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Besides, the Representation of the People Act already contains adequately strong provisions against any candidate seeking to get votes by appealing to the religious sentiments of the people or by arousing feelings of enmity and hatred among different classes of citizens. The Congress and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)], which have authored the amended version of the Bill, have failed to explain why they have opted for new legislation when effective implementation of the existing laws can serve the purpose. Meanwhile, the harsh fact remains that no law can prevent the misuse of religion in politics. The evil has to be fought politically. That the Congress and the CPI(M) are incapable of doing so is suggested by the fact that they, are moving the two Bills in question.

New Naval Chief To Assume Office

BK0209130793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Vice Admiral B.S. Shekhawat is to be the new chief of naval staff. A Defense press release issued in New Delhi today said he will take over from Admiral Ramdas from the first of next month.

Defense Ministry Plans Face Lengthy Delays

BK0309085793 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 28 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] A headless Defence Ministry is unable to finish the agenda formulated during Sharad Pawar's tenure, causing anxiety at a time when the mighty defence structure is facing loss of the Soviet credit card and there is an acute resource crunch.

Experts feel the situation is so grim that it can be salvaged only with the co-operation from various ministries like finance, external affairs, home, commerce, sea and surface transport, railways, industry, space, science and technology and petroleum.

The decisions which need immediate implementation are likely to be delayed further. This, at a time when the Army has undertaken its largest post-independence peace and war-time establishments reorganisation. Stating that the Army saved Rs [rupees] 1,000 crore in one year, the deputy chief Lt Gen D.K.Khanna recently disclosed the changed Army modernisation thrust to members of the defence consultative committee.

From weapon acquisition, the focus now is on the maintenance of existing fleet, upgradation, acquisition of force multipliers and development of high technological systems.

Immediate Army requirements include upgradations of the entire mechanised fleet The priority will be more protection and night fighting capabilities than increased firepower. A Rs 3,000 crore decision to induct the INSAS family [expansion unknown], which are the 5.56 mm calibre rifle, carbine and LMG [Light Machine Gun], including ammunition into the infantry, awaits decision. An across the board basic electronic warfare gear needs replacements after post-Gulf war conducted studies.

Bureaucratic sources say that the execution of the decision to get an urgent minimum 180 self-propelled guns (nine regiments and reserves) costing over [Rs] 1,000 crore will take up to four years. Focus, meanwhile, has shifted to upgradation of existing five hundred 130 mm guns to 155 mm calibre. Each gun upgradation will cost Rs 75 lakh.

After purchase of the initial 410 Swedish Bofors guns, plans for a total 1,500 Bofors guns acquisition have heen finally buried. A task force was set up in June 1993 under Dr A.P.J. Kalam to submit its report in 18 months for indigenisation of Bofors spares parts through reverse engineering. The cost of indigenising the six varieties of Bofors ammunition itself is over Rs 1,000 crore.

For the Air Force, the long delayed transonic transition trainer commonly referred as the Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) decision is still, at least, a year away. The 66 AJT requirement (three squadrons of 22 each) now favours the French Alfa Jet to the British Hawk. This is because in the technical bids recently evaluated under the deputy air chief, the ASR 42 mandatory and 30 essential parameters have been equally met by both contenders .

Crucial decision on the 250 MiG aircraft upgradations for which the Russian and Israeli offers are most favourable, is hanging fire. There is an urgent need to upgrade the existing air defence ground environment system (ADGES), considering that knowledgeable sources assess the comparable Pakistani 777 or, Crystal system, as three times more effective.

Urgent requirements for the Navy include replacements for the aircraft carrier Vikrant and pending two indigenous manufacture of German HDW type 209/ 1500 submarines. There are also fleet-wise weapons and sensors upgradations to be done. These include surface to air guided weapons, close-in-weapon systems and ASW.

Probably the most important pending decisions are in the areas of indigenous missiles integration and of including services, which alone are the executive arm into the recently formed Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to debate the country's nuclear option.

Of the three tri-services Prithvi, Akash and Trishul missiles, the most important will be the induction of the

two 150 and 250 km range versions of the Prithvi SSM [surface-to-surface missile]. This is because it has become controversial being subjected to the MTCR [Missile Technology Control Regime] and, unlike the other two missiles, it does not replace an already existing weapon system.

Even when the battle-support 150 SS [surface-to-surface] Prithvi missile is already under user trials, no production schedules have been commenced as Army lacks funds to place orders. A whole range of supportive command, control, communication, surveillence, target acquisition and analysis systems are yet to be procured, according to sources.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Condemns PLO-Israeli 'Compromise'

LD0409204693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued a statement condemning the recent compromise reached by the PLO with the regime occupying Jerusalem. The statement describes the compromise as a step toward legitimizing the evil rule of the Zionist regime over the occupied territories, violating the rights of the Palestinian nation, and obliterating the ideal of the liberation of Jerusalem from the presence of the occupiers.

It says in the statement: The Islamic Republic of Iran declares its opposition to the negotiations between the Arabs and the Zionist regime, and it rejects any move that does not embrace the ideals of the Palestinian nation and of all the combatant groups on the Palestinian stage.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran stressed the need for cooperation among all Islamic countries and the Palestinian nation so that the Palestinians may achieve their full rights. It has declared the unstinting support of the Iranian nation for this sacred struggle, which is carried out on the basis of internationally recognized principles and standards.

Further on Condemnation of Accord

LD0509141493 Tehran IRNA in English 1355 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 5, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry on Saturday [4 September] condemned the Zionist scheme of self-rule for Palestinians over Gaza and Jericho.

In a statement released here last night the Foreign Ministry referred to the plan as a device whereby the Zionists intend to disentangle themselves from the deadlocked Arab-Israeli talks and also to neutralize the struggle of the Palestinians for attaining their denied rights.

The statement also addressed itself to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and its sympathizers, advising them against involving themselves in the "risky plot."

It said the limited agreement between the PLO and the Zionist regime would be a step towards legitimizing the hideous occupation of the Zionist regime and its continuing trampling upon the rights of Palestinian nation.

The statement said the agreement would frustrate the aspiration for liberating gods [as recieved] from the Zionist hands and would be a wasting of past sacrifices and a throwing to the wind of the future hopes of the Muslim generations.

It said the Islamic Republic is opposed to any talks between the Arabs and Israel and would condemn any initiative which should overlook the aspirations of the Palestinian nation and of other struggling groups in the occupied land.

It said the Islamic Republic considers it neccessary that the Muslim nations cooperate with the Palestinian nation for attaining their denied rights, and also upholds the holy struggle of the Palestinians which is based on established international principles.

Syrian Shift Seen After 'Arafat-al-Asad Talks

LD0609212193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Despite a lapse of nearly one week since the announcement of an agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Zionist regime over the Gaza and Jericho autonomy plans, PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his advisers continue their efforts to justify and explain their recent measure.

Last Sunday, following his talks with the Egyptian foreign minister [words indistinct] in Cairo, Yasir 'Arafat left for Damascus to meet Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Prior to his Damascus visit, the PLO chairman had managed to secure the agreement of Jordan's King Husayn for the Gaza-Jericho plan. But on the other front in the Syria and Lebanon, certain opposition and criticisms have been expressed by the plan on the plan and agreement between the Palestinians and the Israeli regime over the past few days.

This opposition, the strongest aspect of which was observed in Syrian television's posturing over the plan, had some special dimensions. The Syrian TV, in a reaction to the Gaza-Jericho plan, announced that the PLO, through accepting the plan, had weakened the Arabs in the face of Israel. Identical reaction was also expressed by Lebanese officials.

Some political analysts believe that Syria's opposition to the agreement between the PLO and Israel can be the outcome of the Syrians' concern over reaction of the rift

among the Arab negotiators at the peace talks. It is also probable that 'Arafat's measures may somehow weaken Syria in assuming a bigger role in the process of peace talks with the Zionist regime.

On this basis the agreement over the Gaza-Jericho plan, which according to the Palestinian sources favoring this move is rated as a preliminary step towards formation of an independent Palestinian state in the first place, only enjoyed open support of the Egyptian regime.

This issue cannot be assessed as something falling outside the role which Egypt is playing [words indistinct] about closeness between the stands of the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Therefore, [words indistinct] this probability began to gain strength to the faction in favor of the Middle-East peace process who will gradually show a favorable reaction.

Six-hour talks with Yasir 'Arafat with Hafiz al-Asad yesterday apparently turned a certain shift in Syrians' attitude. In the meeting, the Syria president told Yasir 'Arafat the Palestinians had the right to adopt any decision which they consider to be beneficial to themselves. In his talks with Hafiz al-Asad, the PLO chairman explained the contents of the PLO agreement with the Israeli regime. But based on [?serious condition support] for the Gaza-Jericho plan some political experts believe that the PLO-Israel agreement will henceforth increase the chances of observing separate agreements in the Arab sides with Israel.

Occurrence of this probability in the near future, however, will mostly depend on prevailing condition in the region. Therefore, at a time when the American-sponsored compromise process is about to shift the conditions to its favour in the region, it is the duty of intifadah and revolutionary forces to safeguard their bastions while confronting the past compromise process.

Egyptian Paper Alleges Tehran Oil Sales to Israel

NC0409161893 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 28 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] An Iranian oil shipment worth $150 million, more than 10 million barrels, arrived in Elat port a few days ago. This was reported by the magazine PETROLEUM ARGOS, which unveiled a section of the secret ties between Iran and Israel. The magazine noted that authorities in both countries have reached an agreement to swap Iranian oil for some Israeli products, particularly military products.

Observers have affirmed that this transaction is not the first of its kind. Leaders in Tehran engaged in undeclared talks with Israeli officials early this year. During those talks, the Iranian leadership instructed Iranian oil tankers in the Mediterranean, within the framework of the transit trade [agreement], to head for the Israeli port of Elat to repay the price of some arms transactions which had been concluded earlier; the shipments had already arrived in the Iranian territories.

Arab diplomats told AKHBAR AL-YAWM correspondent Mahmud Salah that the matter is not surprising because Iran has adopted the secret transactions approach so that its deals with Israel will not be inconsistent with its open manipulation of the Palestinian cause.

Tehran Denies 'Baseless' Report

LD0409104993 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 4, IRNA—The interests section of Iran in Cairo has condemned an Egyptian newspaper report on alleged ties with Tel Aviv as "baseless and biased."

In a statement, published in Egyptian paper "AL-SHA'B" Friday, the Iranian mission denied the report published in Egyptian state-run daily "AL-AKHBAR" on August 28 alleging that Iran was supplying the Zionist state with oil.

"The interests section of the Islamic Republic of Iran also categorically denies any relation with this entity. This report is baseless and biased," underlined the statement in Arabic.

It also pointed that Iran was firm in its foreign policy to defend Palestinian issue and considered support for legal rights of the oppressed people of Palestinian as its constant Islamic duty.

U.S. Policy Criticized in PRC Ship Incident

LD0509210593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Yesterday, Iran's parliamentary speaker, Mr. Nateq-Nuri, condemned the stoppage of the Chinese ship of Yinhe by the United States, saying that the ship was carrying stationery and computer hardware equipment. He said that the United States, by doing this, expects obedience from world countries.

Meanwhile, the officials of the two countries of China and Saudi Arabia, after inspecting the ship, have announced that there is no banned material inside the ship. [passage omitted] The U.S. representatives were also present in the inspection process, which lasted one week. Also, Beijing asked the United States to apologize for the event and to compensate for the damage. [passage omitted]

The United States has tried for more than a month to once again acknowledge her stance towards Tehran-Beijing ties, by forcing this ship to stop. This way, the United States consolidated her media's propaganda concerning the so-called escalating arms capacity of Iran. Although the event displayed the power the United States enjoys in the international arena and put pressure on China, once again the U.S. postures in reacting to events of this kind became evident. And the fact worth pondering is that how come the world is witnessing policies which are based on the use of force? And how

can we accept the fact that the United States, whenever it desires, is able to stop ships and inspect them in international waters based on her whatever illusions? [as heard] But if all countries were able to pursue policies similar to the United States, then, what international relations would rule the world?

On the whole, one should consider that the good effects of practicing international laws are due to their comprehensiveness to restore security and tranquillity in the human community. The laws should be enforced in a wide scale manner and without any favoritism.

Event Caused 'Loss of Trust'

LD0709110693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The case of the inspection of the Chinese ship Yinhe is closed. The inspection was carried out, and the false claims of America were exposed. But the effects of this issue, or issues of a similar kind, cannot be said to have ended.

About a month or so ago, America claimed that the Yinhe was carrying banned chemical material and requested that the ship be inspected. China resisted the call, and the task of inspection was passed on to a third country. [passage omitted] The inspectors announced that the ship was not carrying banned substances, and China requested reparations and a formal apology from the American government. The losses incurred by the delay to the Yinhe's movements is declared to be approximately $13 million.

Although America has admitted its mistake, it has dodged accepting China's request. China and America, which have their differences on various issues—such as human rights, the Olympic Games for the year 2000, and the sale of arms and arms' technology—embarked on a test of strength over the Yinhe incident. This test ended unsuccessfully for America. Tension in America over relations with China continues, particularly over the issue of the sale of arms' technology. Bearing in mind the position of these two countries in the structure of the international system, tension is not limited to relations between these two countries; it also has important effects on international issues.

If we pay attention to the issues which are the bone of contention between China and America, we realize that these disputes will first leave their mark on the international scene, on the issue of world disarmament. Right now, attention is focused on the issue of world disarmament in the three axes of nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapons, and special complementary and missile weapons. The latest disputes between China and America have also occurred in these three spheres. The inspection of the Yinhe relates to the issue of chemical weapons disarmament. The economic embargo imposed by America on China, on the pretext that the latter was selling M11 missiles to Pakistan, is linked to the issue of the control of missile weaponry. And China's announcement that it will revise its commitments with regard to the pact banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons is linked to the issue of nuclear weapons disarmament. Though the differences between China and America in these cases spring from two different viewpoints concerning world disarmament, and while taking into account post-Cold War developments concerning cooperation between countries to arrive at world disarmament, it seems that through cooperation between countries, these different viewpoints may come closer together, and that an acceptable solution to achieve world disarmament may be found by them. But the latest differences between China and America show that it is not all that easy to arrive at such an agreement. What is obvious is that world disarmament requires that countries should trust each other. Arbitrary [khodsaraneh] actions, such as America's insistence that the Yinhe should be inspected, leads to a loss of trust between countries. This, in itself, could create a basic obstacle to the disarmament process.

Velayati Warns Armenia on Clashes With Azerbaijan

LD0609161193 Tehran IRNA in English 1453 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 6, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Monday warned that the Islamic Republic would not remain silent vis-a-vis the Armenian aggression on Azerbaijan and growing of unrest across the Iranian border.

In a telephone conversation with his Armenian counterpart Vagan Papazyan, Velayati called on the Yerevan government to refrain from stepping up the war which he said would heighten tension in the region. He also reminded Papazyan that the ongoing Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan has forced tens of thousands of people in southern Azerbaijan to flee their homes.

The Iranian foreign minister, calling for an immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from territories they have occupied, noted that the crisis could be solved only through political ways. He said Iran was ready as before to help settle the issue.

Papazyan in reply said the Yerevan government desires was interested [as received] in restoring peace and stability to the region as favoured by the Islamic Republic. According to him Armenia was trying to ease the crisis, and would continue to consult the Islamic Republic in this regard. Papazyan said the Armenians of Karabakh have stopped their attacks and that they would soon leave the occupied territories.

Iranian Troops Guarding Dams

NC0409123393 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept 4 (AFP)—Iranian forces have been in Azerbaijan for several days at Baku's request protecting an area around two dams being built on the river Araks which borders the two countries, an official source said here Saturday.

Work on the two dams at Khoda Afarin and Giz Ghaleh-Si, 150 kilometres (90 miles) northeast of Tabriz was suspended amid fighting in southern Azerbaijan between Azerbaijani government troops and Armenian separatists pushing towards the Iranian border, the source said.

The hydro-electric dams are a joint project between Iran and Azerbaijan with the costs being shared between the two countries.

The largest dam at Khoda Afarin where work started last year will be 70 metres (213 feet) high and provide 200 megawatts of electricity to be shared between the two countries.

The second project, 13 kilometres northeast of the first, will be about 40 metres (120 feet) high and provide 80 megawatts of energy.

The source said: "After the fall of the towns of Fizuli and Dzhebrail, south of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Azerbaijani workers fled, abandoning the projects.

"Iranian forces are currently protecting the two sites and the equipment at the express request of the Azerbaijani government."

The Iranian forces are being deployed in two "common zones" straddling the banks of the Araks where the dams are being built, the source added.

Armenian military sources said at the beginning of the week that they had seen Iranian forces on one of the sites. But Baku had denied any "incursion" by Iranian soldiers into Azerbaijani territory.

Iran has several times voiced fears over an offensive in southwest Azerbaijan and close to the Iranian border launched in August by Armenian separatists from the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. Tehran believes the continued fighting in the area threatens its security and the dam projects.

Azerbaijan's acting president Geydar Aliyev called on Iran to urge Armenia to end its assault on Azerbaijan, Iran's state-run radio reported Friday.

Aliyev made his plea in a telephone call to Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati late Thursday asking Tehran to continue its warnings to Armenia "to stop its aggression" against Azerbaijan.

Aliyev's Moscow Trip Viewed

LD0609165693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Last Sunday, Mr. Geydar Aliyev, speaker of parliament and acting president of Azerbaijan, departed for Moscow in a fresh attempt to terminate clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia. It seems that Mr. Aliyev, in the course of his talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is trying to survey current events in the Republic of Azerbaijan and to solicit the favorable opinion of Russian statesmen for lending necessary support to Baku. In fact, after a period of strained ties between Azerbaijan and Russia during the reign of Elchibey, Mr. Aliyev now hopes to adopt some practical measures to improve relations between them. In view of the fact that during this period there was an undeniable Russian support for Armenia and President Aliyev accepts that Russia, through its influence in Armenia, will take more effective steps to settle the Karabakh issue.

However, despite the coming to power of Aliyev and in view of his longstanding ties with the former Communist Party and also Russian warnings to the Armenians of Karabakh to refrain from launching military attacks and occupying various regions of Azerbaijan, the continuing assaults of the Armenian forces have shown that the Armenians of Karabakh are heedless of the Russian warnings on halting hostile operations.

Anyhow, Aliyev, during his current visit to Moscow and meetings with the government officials, intends to persuade them to extend military aid to Baku since the continuing aggressions of the Armenian forces against Azerbaijan have now assumed dangerous dimensions.

At present the Armenian forces, after having occupied the Karabakh region, have also overrun the cities of Jibrail and Kubatly, and they are still continuing with their assaults. For this reason Mr. Aliyev is trying—besides holding talks with the Russian officials—to adopt a series of fresh moves in a bid to prepare grounds for conducting political parleys and establishing peace. Currently, a noteworthy point relates to the homelessness of over 200,000 people of the regions of Jibrail, Kubatly, and Zangelan, in the wake of the latest attacks of the Armenian forces. Due to the blocking of the escape route of these people from the internal regions of Azerbaijan, the Azeris are moving toward the northern frontiers of Iran.

Of course, the Islamic Iran, while announcing its readiness to give shelter to these homeless people, has declared that it has constantly sounded warnings about the probability of the escalation of the dimensions of these clashes to the entire region, requesting the speedy termination of these hostilities.

In fact the factor which has given extreme sensitivity to the ongoing clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan, mostly relate to the adverse economic conditions of both countries. Continuation of these clashes not only prevent them from the process of attaining real independence but it will also pave the way for the intervention of foreign forces at regional level.

It is in view of these realities that one is hopeful of the adoption of urgent measures by the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia to settle their differences.

Refugee Camp To Be Built at Azerbaijani Request

NC0509062293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has officially informed the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan that it is willing to set up a refugee camp for Azerbaijani war refugees inside Azerbaijani territory.

Our ambassador spoke to central news unit correspondent in Baku after meeting with Geydar Aliyev, the parliamentary speaker and acting president of Azerbaijan and said: This refugee camp will be constructed in that country at the request of the Republic of Azerbaijan and will have a capacity to accommodate 100,000 persons. Ambassador Nahavandian added: As soon as a suitable site is located, work on the camp will begin.

He said: The humanitarian action on the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran in building a camp inside the territory of Azerbaijan will permit the refugees to return to their homes as soon as the situation is normalized.

Aliyev Thanks Tehran for Camps

NC0609062293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Acting President of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyev expressed his appreciation for the steps taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the construction of a temporary camp for the war refugees in the Republic.

According to the Central News Unit report from Baku, Geydar Aliyev said yesterday that in the camps that are to be set up in the Republic of Azerbaijan, clinics, training and other service will also be provided. Iran has officially informed the Government of Azerbaijan that it is ready to construct camps for the war refugees inside Azerbaijani territory.

Red Crescent Society Plans To Aid Refugees

LD0409210593 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Tabriz (East Azerbaijan), Sept. 4, IRNA—The first consignment of United Nations relief aid for Azeri refugees was delivered at the Khoda Afarin border point north here today. The shipment comprised of 944 packages of food stuffs including rice and vegetable oil.

Iran has helped set up a camp in Azerbaijani territory for refugees fleeing the Armenian military offensives. In related news, 28 Azeri border residents crossed the Aras river into Iran and were received by the Muslim Iranian people and officials at Khoda Afarin border. A local official told IRNA here today that a large group of Azeris gathered near the Khoda Afarin dam today requesting asylum in Islamic Iran.

Meanwhile head of the Red Crescent Society (RCS) of Iran Vahid Dastjerdi said in Esfahan today that Iran would spare no efforts to help the Azeri refugees. Dastjerdi said consultations were held with Azeri officials to set up camps on Azeri territory. He added that at present the Islamic Republic of Iran is home to a large number of Iraqi and Afghan refugees and that with equal preference the ways and means for helping the Azeris should be found out.

According to Dastjerdi, dislodged Azeris do not really wish to quit their homeland and that their government, too, intends to settle them on areas adequately far from the scenes of military encounter. He said that RCS relief workers are busy providing humanitarian services to the Azeri refugees in collaboration with other Iranian institutions on the border.

Velayati, Pakistan's Sattar Call For Aid to Azerbaijan

LD0409160493 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 4, IRNA—The Iranian and Pakistani ministers of foreign affairs in a telephone conversation on Saturday discussed the latest developments in Bosnia and the situation in the Caucasus.

'Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran and Abdul Sattar of Pakistan called for dispatch of humanitarian relief to the Azerbaijan Republic which is facing an Armenian military offensive in the Caucasus.

Pointing to Azerbaijan's membership in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Velayati called on other ECO members to provide aid to the people of the war-stricken republic.

Abdul Sattar said Pakistan was ready to send humanitarian aid to Azerbaijan.

President Meets With Lebanon's Fadlallah

LD0609163793 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] At a meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today [6 September], 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the prominent Lebanese clergyman, submitted a report on the latest developments in Lebanon, especially on the reconstruction process in that

country after the defeat of the latest act of aggression by the Zionist regime. Thanking the Islamic Republic of Iran for its humanitarian aid to the oppressed people of Lebanon, he stressed the importance of that aid in the reconstruction of Lebanon.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the necessity of strengthening unity between the people and all Muslim groups in Lebanon. He said: The resistance of the Muslim people of Lebanon to the Zionist regime's aggression stemmed from the combative spirit and bravery of an independent nation in the defense of its territorial integrity and independence.

Execution of Algerian Islamists Indicates 'Crisis'

LD0109143293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1014 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary: "The Execution of Seven Muslim Revolutionaries in Algeria"]

[Excerpts] The execution of seven Algerian Muslim revolutionaries, which coincided with certain changes in the Supreme State Council of that country, indicates that the political crisis in Algeria is escalating. The Council ruling over Algeria has embarked on various measures both internally and abroad to cope with the critical situation in the country, and, in this drive, it has changed some state and military personnel. But it has not yet succeeded in achieving its aims.

The execution of seven resistant Muslims in Algeria demonstrates that the ruling clique has continued to place executions and agressive confrontation with the opposition on its agenda instead of finding a logical and principled solution to reduce the crisis. Even though the execution or martyrdom of Muslim opponents in the streets may appear to be the easiest way out, there is no doubt that these kinds of actions will force military opponents to resort to vengeful actions with consequences that will ultimately affect the ruling council.

According to Algerian Government sources, more than 2,000 people have lost their lives in street clashes. Most of these were government employees and officials. Predictions are that this number is likely to increase in the coming days if the Algerian ruling body insists on continuing with its harsh actions against its opponents. In any case, according to some reports, differences of opinion within the Algerian military have increased. Political observers believe that the main reason for these differences of opinion is the way the military forces are confronting people. [passage omitted].

Tension has increased in the Algerian Armed Forces' headquarters since last year to the extent that some troops have fled their bases and have joined the ranks of Muslim strugglers. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, experts on Algerian affairs believe that the execution of resistant Muslims and other such measures also do away with playing the game of democracy—a game which some members of the ruling council believe should continue in order to eclipse public opinion. Moreover, these measures expose, in advance, the ruling body's non-adherence to promises that democracy will be resumed; they prove this point that the ruling council is incapable of showing any flexibility vis-a-vis its opponents.

Ouster of Prime Minister Viewed

NC0409093193 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 26 Aug 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Algeria's Fading Hopes"]

[Text] The recent ousting of Algerian Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalam is yet another indication that the regime is further sliding towards its permanent end. Redha Malek, a member of the military-backed High State Council is the new premier.

Military rulers and governments without a popular mandate more often than not resort to rather obsolete tactics of changing faces. The history of Third World politics has episodes in which one puppet is replaced by yet another who may be, even reluctantly, acceptable to the frustrated masses. The other motive behind such useless measures is to try to cling to power for a few more months in the hope that the tide will change and bring some remote chance of legitimacy.

The former Shah of Iran embarked on similar turf but got nowhere. Several weeks before the culmination of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, he switched three premiers within a few months. But every time he did this, the public reacted more fiercely. The Pahlavi dynasty crumbled in the face of a big no to Mohammad Reza Shah's constant appeals for reconciliation along with changes of corrupt and subservient prime ministers.

Muslim Algeria is in the grip of a crisis which its leaders and their western supporters blame on the Muslims who seek to rule on the basis of internationally accepted election results. In January 1992, the North African state's military establishment thwarted the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) victory in parliamentary elections and installed a five-man ruling team. Mr. Malek, the new premier, is part of this team, which, for almost 20 months, has deployed all autocratic means to give a semblance of tranquility to the country, but is still at the point where it started.

Today Algiers and all other major cities lack security. Since early last year, more than 1,300 people have died in the fighting between Muslim militants and the government which openly clings to power via military force. On Sunday gunmen ambushed and killed the former premier Kasdi Merbah. As usual the junta was quick to condemn the Muslim militants for the murder. But Mr. Merbah's associates are not sure.

Last year President Mohamed Boudiaf was also assassinated. That too was officially blamed on the so-called Islamic 'fundamentalists,' but has yet not been investigated properly.

Almost all Western governments privately welcomed the Algerian military's move in 1992 to sabotage the parliamentary elections which denied the Islamists a victory which was 100 per cent legitimate, fair and acceptable by all impartial observers. The post-election evidence and rising casualty figures will soon turn into a nightmare for the regime's foreign backers and the Algerian case will start to look as hopeless as ever. It would be in Algeria's interest if its present rulers would stop the business of changing faces and get down to serious negotiations with political forces across the board.

Pakistan

Security, Nonproliferation Talks Open With U.S.

BK0309145793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] In Washington, Pakistan and the U.S. have begun talks on regional security and nuclear nonproliferation in an effort to resolve the underlying problems that cause tensions and instability in South Asia. The meeting was opened by Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan, who explained Islamabad's position on such vital issues as Kashmir, the Pressler Amendment—under which the United States has cut off economic and military assistance to Pakistan—and the Indo-Pakistan relations. The United States' side was headed by Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Robin Raphel. The State Department officials said the talks covered a wide-ranging agenda, including regional security perspectives, the global nuclear nonproliferation policy of the Clinton Administration, the proposal for a five-nation conference aimed at establishing a nonproliferation regime, the South Asia ballistic missile initiative, and the control of weapons of mass destruction.

The Pakistan side presented detailed information on the security situation facing Pakistan in the post-Cold War era. The Kashmir issue was also discussed at considerable length, and approaches to resolve the issue were examined.

Pakistan explained its approach to nonproliferation which was focused on the threat emanating from India's capacity to build nuclear weapons. Pakistan reiterated its willingness to endorse any meaningful measures for nonproliferation on the basis of equity and nondiscrimination vis-a-vis India. Pakistan also conveyed its thinking on the issue of preventing a ballistic missile race in South Asia. The suggestion came in the wake of unconfirmed reports of Indian plans to deploy its short-range missiles against Pakistan. The two sides also dwelt at length on several specific ways to promote the goals of nuclear nonproliferation on regional and global basis. The modalities to convene a conference on regional nonproliferation and security, taking into account the five-nation conference proposal, were also discussed.

Foreign Secretary on 'Constructive,' 'Positive' Talks

BK0409092093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Sep 93

[Text] The U.S.-Pakistan talks on regional security and nuclear nonproliferation ended in Washington last night [3 September]. The foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, before his departure from Washington, told APP that his talks with the Clinton Administration on regional issues and bilateral matters were constructive and positive. He said U.S.-Pakistan cooperation would be further enhanced following his visit. A new chapter of friendship, based on shared objectives of promoting peace, stability, nonproliferation and human rights, would be opened. He said the talks had helped both the sides to understand each other's position more precisely. Earlier, the foreign secretary held talks with the director of the policy planning bureau in the State Department, Mr. (Talbot). Mr. Shaharyar Khan informed him about Pakistan's policy, particularly on the situation in Kashmir, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Central Asia. He outlined Pakistan's initiatives to develop its relations with the newly independent states of Central Asia.

Regional security talks between the two countries covered the issue of Kashmir, particularly the Siachen Glacier, as well as measures to lessen tension between India and Pakistan and to promote mutual confidence. APP says Pakistan is understood to have proposed several ideas, particularly regarding the need to stop massive violation of human rights taking place in held Kashmir. The U.S.-Pakistan security dialogue will be resumed in Islamabad in the near future. The Pakistan delegation has invited their American counterpart for the talks.